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KNIFE BIN BID TO STOP STABBINGS

Report by Richard Guttridge

A KNIFE surrender bin will be placed in Dudley as police take action following a series of stabbings in the borough.

Police chiefs are to place the bin in a town centre location after the borough was shocked by three stabbings in eight days last month.

There are already bins in place in Wolverhampton and Sandwell and another is planned for Walsall to encourage the collection and destruction of weapons.

Police believe the bins are useful tools in helping to tackle knife crime, which gives people the opportunity to help rid the streets of knives without fear of retribution.

Mansoor Mahmood, aged 24, died after being knifed in Brierley Hill High Street. It came after stabbings in Lower Gornal and Sedgley.

Police and Crime Commissioner David Jamieson said a knife bin would be placed in Dudley within weeks, after proving successful elsewhere in the Black Country.

More than 140 weapons – including axes, swords and knives – have been recovered from the latest opening of surrender bins in the West Midlands.

Police revealed the secure bin on Dunstall Road in Whitmore Reans, Wolverhampton, had the highest number of dumped weapons with 54 blades.

Zombie

These included three swords and the kind of vicious 'zombie' knife that has been recently outlawed.

Mr Jamieson said the key to tackling knife crime was getting the message through to children when they are at a young age that carrying knives was unacceptable.

He said: "We are determined to take tough action against the sort of people who are carrying knives. The really sad thing is that most of the offenders are boys in their teens and the victims are boys in their teens and aged up to 24."

"We can't arrest our way out of the problems. A lot of boys who find themselves in problems lack a father figure and find themselves drifting into gangs."

"We need to look at children when they are nine to 13, and educate them and to get them to understand the consequences of carrying knives."

"The very simple message is if you carry a knife the chances are someone will use a knife on you."



Victim – Mr Mahmood More than 140 weapons – including axes, swords and knives – have been recovered from the latest opening of surrender bins in the West Midlands.

ALL SYSTEMS GO FOR GAMER ON GADGET SHOW



Nick Browne, of the Vintage Gamer shop in Halesowen, who is to have a major role in Channel 5's The Gadget Show at Christmas

A RETRO video game specialist from the Black Country will feature on Channel 5's Gadget Show over the festive period.

Nick Browne, owner of Vintage Gamer shop, was approached by the team behind The Gadget Show. They then spent over two hours filming him and around his shop in Halesowen.

The Gadget Show, now in its 24th series, puts both old and new gadgets through their paces.

The team filmed Nick discussing which forgotten gaming gems could be hidden away

in people's lofts and also took a look at all things Pokemon Go. They also spoke on the advances in console gaming along with some of Nick's own tips and advice, which will be screened on December 21.

Nick said: "It was very surreal to have them come over and film. I think it'll be a little cringe to watch myself but it'll be great as I've never been on TV before."

"The presenter, Jason (Bradbury), asked me what prized possessions I've got that's rare and expensive so I told him about a game I've got which is ridiculously rare. The game

was originally for the Nintendo NES console and is called Duck Tales, based on the Disney film."

"There's only 150 numbered games in the world and 20 that aren't numbered as they were the first original batch. To find one is ridiculously hard but I've got three – one numbered and two from the original batch. I'm on the hunt for more even though the last one I bought cost me nearly £1,500."

Nick opened his first gaming shop in 2013 before moving to his current premises in 2014 which is home to a video game arcade.

COLLISION

Man in court over car crash tragedy

A 24-year-old man has appeared in court over the death of a teenage girl who was killed in a crash in Dudley.

Georgia Ann Evans, aged 18, from Himley, died in the crash involving her Ford Fiesta and an Audi on Priory Road in Dudley.

Kuba Oles, of Beaconsfield Road, West Bromwich, who is charged with causing death by dangerous driving, appeared at Wolverhampton Crown Court on Monday, but did not enter a plea.

He is due to appear again at the same court on January 9.

DEATH

Body of missing pensioner found

THE body of a missing pensioner has been found in a fishing pool.

West Midlands Police had been searching for 75-year-old William Jewkes from Sedgley after he was last seen opening a church for a mother and toddler group.

On Friday police confirmed that his body had been found in the pool on Parkes Hall Road, Dudley, at 12.28pm. His death is not being treated as suspicious and Mr Jewkes' family has been informed.

FOOTBALL

Glassboys ready to make FA Cup history

THERE will be a capacity crowd at the War Memorial ground in Amblecote on Sunday for Stourbridge's FA Cup second round tie with Northampton Town.

The Glassboys will play League One outfit Northampton at 2pm as they aim to reach the third round proper for the first time in their history. More than 2,000 supporters will watch Gary Hackett's side take on the Cobblers with the potential reward of a lucrative glamour tie in the next round.

More than 400 away fans will be making the trip from the East Midlands.

• Sport – see page 40

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MIKE'S TRIP INTO THE PAST



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Road concern raised after fatal crash

A STRETCH of road in Shropshire where a Black Country motorcyclist died is to come under scrutiny after a coroner vowed to write to highways chiefs about it.

Halesowen motorcyclist Jason Gardener, a welder, died when his Suzuki motorbike collided with a Toyota Rav 4 on the Stourbridge Road between Six Ashes and Bridgnorth.

John Ellery, coroner for Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin, said he would write to Shropshire Council's traffic safety manager at the conclusion of an inquest on the fatal accident on the A458.

Mr Gardener, a 43-year-old welder, who lived at Hawne Lane, crashed at the junction of the

Stourbridge Road with Woodyard Lane on May 15. He died of multiple injuries, the inquest held at Shrewsbury was told last week.

Mr Ellery heard from witnesses that the day had been clear and visibility good on the stretch of road.

Dangerous

Matthew Timmins, from Perton, near Wolverhampton, had been behind the Rav 4 as it prepared to pull off of Woodyard Lane onto the A458.

"I know how dangerous that junction is so I hung back," said Mr Timmins. "Just as he was turning right, that was when the accident occurred."

"I heard a huge noise and saw the bike hit the car and spin in a clockwise motion down the road. That junction is horrendous."

In summing up, Mr Ellery said: "This is a junction that is a matter of concern. I will write to Brian Williams, traffic safety manager at Shropshire Council, about this."

"The appropriate conclusion is one of a road traffic collision."

The driver of the car, John Launchbury, declined to give evidence at the inquest.

Collision investigator, PC Chris Duffer, said that it was impossible to say how fast Mr Gardener been travelling prior to the accident.

Etheridge is given top UKIP post by new boss

EURO MP and Sedgley councillor Bill Etheridge was this week appointed to UKIP's top team just hours after new leader Paul Nuttall replaced Nigel Farage.

Mr Etheridge, an MEP and Dudley Council member, is his party's new defence spokesman.

He said: "I am excited and it is a great honour."

"It is an area where the party will make a big difference as it is our policy for a big increase in spending. I'm a big believer of the phrase 'peace through strength'."

Mr Etheridge pulled out of the UKIP leadership contest to back Mr Nuttall, a personal friend. Merseysider Mr Nuttall won with more than 60 per cent of the vote from UKIP members.

Mr Etheridge said the party will be targeting the Black Country and Labour voters.

"Paul really sees the Black Country and the West Midlands as somewhere that has been let down by the traditional parties," he said.

"As a region it overwhelmingly backed the campaign to leave the EU. Those people are looking for a voice and UKIP will be that voice for them."

The election was the second in a few months, following previous victor Diane James's decision to step down after just 18 days in the job.

Mr Nuttall took 62.6 per cent of the vote, beating former deputy chairwoman Suzanne Evans, and ex-soldier John Rees-Evans.

90-year-old dies in road accident

A 90-YEAR-OLD man was knocked over and killed on the busy A449 near Wombourne, just yards from his home. Two men have been arrested in connection with the incident.

Frederick Dudley, of Bearnett Drive, Upper Penn, was reportedly struck by a black VW Scirocco travelling towards Himley on the Stourbridge Road, near the Miller & Carter restaurant.

A 27-year-old from Wolverhampton and a 25-year-old from Kingswinford have been arrested over offences connected with the incident and given bail.

Eyewitness Paul Smith, of Lloyd Drive, comforted Mr Dudley as he lay dying in the road. He said the victim had just got off a bus. Witnesses should call Staffordshire Police on 101 quoting incident 570.

Five Guys arrive at Merry Hill centre

POPULAR burger chain Five Guys has opened at Merry Hill shopping centre, creating 35 jobs. It is the American restaurant's first outlet in the Black Country, after arriving at Birmingham's Bullring. Five Guys Burger and Fries first opened in the USA 30 years ago.

DUDLEY is the unhealthiest place in the UK followed by Walsall in second and Wolverhampton in sixth, according to figures from... a gambling company.

Dudley Council bosses have hit back, saying the figures are 'nonsense'.

Walsall Council has reported Sports Betting Online, which compiled the figures, to the national health watchdog.

The figures show the number of gyms, McDonald's restaurants, swimming pools, sports clubs, sporting events, public parks and cycle routes - all per 100,000 people.

Dudley was found to have the worst gym to population ratio with just three per 100,000. Walsall topped the statistics for the ratio of McDonald's outlets to people, with 14 per 100,000.

Local authorities have rubbished the statistics, which they say has been compiled with 'little knowledge' of the region.

Dudley has at least 20 gyms, including eight outdoor, with a population of around 300,000. This means its ratio of gym to people should be around six to 100,000, not the three to 100,000 suggested by the figures.

While also including Stourbridge and Coseley, Dudley has six McDonald's restaurants. This means the ratio would be around three to 100,000, not the ten to 100,000 suggested by the figures.

Unhelpful

Councillor Rachel Harris, cabinet member for health and wellbeing in Dudley, says the town has 81 fast food outlets per 100,000.

She said: "National surveys such as this are unhelpful and confusing for people as they are often based on little knowledge of an area or the hard work that goes on. In Dudley we have a very active programme of work to promote healthy lifestyles and tackle obesity."

"There are eight free outdoor gyms to use in our parks which accompany a packed programme of physical activity and healthy cooking sessions run by our dedicated staff."

"Add to that our successful walking for health, the daily mile in schools, disability sports provision, exercise referral, Dudley food for health and the Dudley rowing programmes, it is clear to see we are working very hard to encourage people of all ages to lead fit and healthy lifestyles."

Parents protest in support of warden



Parents and children join lollipop lady Gail Maiden at the protest calling for crossing wardens to be retained

ANGRY parents have stepped up their opposition to Dudley Council's plans to scrap school crossing patrols.

Around 30 parents protested outside Quarry Bank Primary School against the funding withdrawal for lollipop wardens in the borough.

Placards were held by concerned mums and dads, reading 'child safety not council cuts'.

Jennifer Walker, whose six-year-old daughter attends the school, organised the campaign.

She said: "We are aware that Quarry Bank is one of the busiest roads in the borough and we were extremely upset that the council even thought of cutting it as it serves the school directly."

"Gail, who has been our lollipop lady for more than 15 years, is a staple in the school - she is absolutely golden and is there rain or shine."

"We are a thoroughfare for all nearby places in the Black Country and traffic can be very heavy. All

parents are really concerned about this, crossing patrols should be sacrosanct."

Dudley Council currently funds the school crossing service but say the continuing reductions in funding from central government has prompted a review of the service in an effort to save £395,000.

The local authority is not legally required to fund the service and is suggesting alternatives, including schools funding the patrols themselves.

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Location of new leisure centres is key factor

TWO new leisure centres will need to be within easy reach of everyone in Dudley borough, the council's regeneration boss says.

Controversial plans to close the borough's three existing centres and replace them with two new facilities were revealed last month.

Dudley Council regeneration boss Councillor Khurshid Ahmed said that he expected one of the centres to be in Dudley, which meant it was important that the other, that is likely to be in the south of the borough, could be accessed easily.

If that was the case, it would mean either Stourbridge or Halesowen would be left without a leisure centre.

Hundreds have signed a petition calling for the plans to be scrapped.

Mr Ahmed said: "If we go from three to two, which is likely, we have got to make sure there is connectivity and they are easily accessible."

Struggle

"It needs to be within 20 minutes commuting time. Anything beyond that and you struggle to get people to go."

In response to the council's move, former councillor and cabinet member for environment and leisure, Tracy Wood, set up the The Save Our Leisure Centres campaign. So far 1,400 people have backed it.

"I'm going to continue building the campaign and putting pressure on the council to prevent the leisure centres from closing," she added.

Councillor Ahmed said no decision had been made yet and a full report would be going to the council's next cabinet meeting.

GP accused of sex attacks on patients

A GP has been accused of sex attacks on three of his patients, police have revealed.

Dr Jaswant Rathore has been charged with 10 counts of sexual assault and will appear before Walsall magistrates on December 23.

West Midlands Police said last night charges against the 58-year-old, of Ploughmans Walk, Wall Heath, related to alleged offences against three of his patients.

Dr Rathore, who works at a surgery in the Dudley area, previously served as Dudley Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) clinical executive for finance and business intelligence.

Dr David Hegarty, chair of Dudley CCG, confirmed on Friday that Dr Rathore was no longer a board member at the CCG. He left the board on December 31, 2015.

A West Midlands Police spokesman said: "Specialist officers are supporting the victims and we would urge anybody else with information to call 101 or contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111."

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Sisters notch up 200 years together



Irene Crump, right, and Phyllis Jones

THESE twins have proved they're quite the sister act after celebrating their 100th birthday.

Irene Crump and Phyllis Jones have spent a whole century together after being born 25 minutes apart on November 20 1916 – and even live together in Stourport.

The twins – who aren't identical but look remarkably similar – attended the same school and also shared their first job at Steatite Porcelain Products before Irene married farmer Samuel Crump.

The duo put their milestone birth-

day down to 'hard work and good food' and celebrated in style with 48 friends and a traditional Sunday roast.

Irene, the younger of the two, said: "We often celebrate our special birthdays together, and we had a lovely day."

"We celebrated our 90th together, and last year we celebrated our 99th birthday too."

"Hard work and good food is our secret, that's all I can put it down to."

The twins have each other's first name for their middle name and say they have always been close.

Irene added: "We've always been close and we live together now, Phyllis moved in with me five years ago. I can't walk very far now but Phyllis walks around the block every day."

Both Irene and Phyllis married. Irene's husband Samuel died in 1999 and lived well into his 90s, and Phyllis' husband, Ray Jones, died aged 91 in 2006.

Although Irene never had any children, Phyllis' only son, Carl Jones, helps care for them both.

Carl, 58, said: "They live independently and they're doing great."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Road is closed by burst water pipe

MOTORISTS faced delays after a road in Brierley Hill was closed because of a burst water main. The rupture took place on Waterfall Road on Monday evening, which closed the road between Caledonia and Stamford Road.

A Severn Trent spokesman said: "Our teams have been working on repairing a burst pipe. To allow our users to work safely, and to keep other road users safe, we're using traffic lights. We're sorry for any inconvenience. Our priority is to repair this pipe and return everything back to normal as quickly as possible."

New officers to fight cyber crime

WEST Midlands Police will take on 200 officers to specifically tackle cyber crime.

The recruits will be in addition to 800 new officers set to join the force by 2020.

Police and Crime Commissioner David Jamieson has made tackling cyber crime one of his key priorities over the next four years as part of his police and crime plan.

Mr Jamieson said cyber crime, such as fraud and terrorism, was one of the biggest challenges facing the force today.

Veteran singer's town hall date

VETERAN singer and actress Anita Harris is to appear in a music hall show in Dudley.

The matinee performance of The Good Old Days of Variety is taking place in Dudley Town Hall on March 14 at 2pm.

The 74-year-old entertainer appeared in two Carry On movies, had hit records in the 1960s and was a star of the 1981 Royal Variety Performance. Tickets cost £12, call (01384) 812812.

Cars, HGV and tyres in scrap yard blaze

FIREFIGHTERS tackled a scrap yard blaze in Lye which saw cars, an HGV and more than 30 tyres alight.

The incident happened near to the Lye Valley Industrial Estate, in Bromley Street, on Friday evening.

Two crews from Brierley Hill and one from Haden Cross attended.

A West Midlands Fire Service spokesman said: "Scrap metal, 30 tyres, several cars and a HGV were alight. Luckily nobody was injured. We left at 8.34pm."

Winter sun warning

A FIRE service spokesman has warned motorists about the risk of being dazzled by the low in the sky winter sun after an accident in King's Swinford on Friday.

A taxi crashed into the back of a lorry on Market Street just after 11am. No one was injured.

Hospital consider alarms after fatal fall from bed

HOSPITAL bosses are looking at bed or chair alarms for some elderly patients after a 96-year-old woman died after falling from a bed in Russells Hall Hospital.

Thelma McDermott also hit her head against a bin as she fell from a bed on which rails had been lowered.

An inquest heard that Mrs McDermott suffered an acute subdural haematoma in an emergency care ward on August 25, after being taken to the hospital for the second time in two days. The first was after falling in her room at Prestwood House Nursing Home, near Stourbridge, and the second after staff at the home became worried about her condition.

After the fall in hospital nurses rushed to Mrs McDermott's aid. Doctors agreed her injuries were too severe for her to be saved. She was taken back to Prestwood House, where she died on August 29.

Cannock Coroner's Court heard that Mrs McDermott had been on a bed with the rails down and at 4.36am a loud crash was heard. She was found on the floor with a laceration on her head. She was taken for a CT scan and found to have an acute subdural haematoma.

Attention

It was suggested she may have been reaching for pull-cord to get a nurse's attention when the fall happened.

Nurse Martin Gallagher said that Mrs McDermott had been given anti-slip socks and the rails had been lowered on her bed for safety reasons. He said: "The rails are not on the bed to restrain patients, they are there to stop patients rolling over the side and falling out in their sleep. There was no explanation as to why she had fallen. She was in a confused state."

Jane Pugh, lead nurse for the emergency care department, said: "The hospital is currently investigating whether more formal risk assessments should be made and whether bed or chair alarms should be installed."

Senior Coroner for South Staffordshire, Andrew Haigh, said that Mrs McDermott was generally in good health but did suffer from dementia. "The fall and the head injury is a significant factor. This was not a natural death," he said. "I don't order the hospital to carry out a further report as I have already heard that staff are looking at different options."

He delivered a narrative conclusion, saying Mrs McDermott was unwell and had a fall.



Most magical time of the year – Father Christmas has a grotto at the Ryemarket shopping centre in Stourbridge until Christmas Eve

Soap star and Santa to join the festivities

STOURBRIDGE and Brierley Hill get lit up for Christmas on Saturday.

There will be festive family fun in Stourbridge town centre from 10am until 5pm including fun-fair rides on Market Street and live entertainment in Crown Square and Fountain Square.

Father Christmas will be in his grotto in the Ryemarket shopping centre from 11am to 4pm, and there will be stalls on High Street and Coventry Street.

Coronation Street star Jack P Shepherd, who plays the troubled David Platt in the soap, will switch on the lights at 5pm in Crown Square.

Santa will be staying in Stourbridge with his grotto open every Saturday until Christmas Eve at the Ryemarket.

Ryemarket centre manager Kelley Dyas said: "Christmas is here and we want to ensure we offer families a destination that embraces the magic."

Brierley Hill will be celebrating from 11am with a Teenage Market in the Moor Centre and the lights switched on at 6pm.

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A BBC reporter covering the Autumn Statement assured us that the Government's plan to pay off the deficit by 2020 is now on the shelf and out of the window.

HEINZ produced a TV advert showing how to play a tune using empty baked-bean tins. But after receiving just nine complaints about the alleged danger of kids cutting themselves on sharp edges, the Advertising Standards Authority has banned it. However, since the ban was announced, the ad, and variations of it, have gone viral with just three YouTube videos attracting between them more than two million viewers. So nine complainers and the ASA ban have given Heinz more publicity than it could have dreamed of. In this internet age, banz meanz viewerz.

YET another bunch of parents and kids have been disappointed when a day trip to see Santa turned out to be a tent in a waterlogged field, this time in Derbyshire. But the giveaway, surely, was the name. By this time in human history, we should all be very wary of any attraction involving the words winter, wonderland and grotto. Especially in November.

ON the very day that the Government announced plans to upgrade Britain's broadband, a neighbour came around in despair, his phone once again on the blink. While the latest all-singing, all-dancing hyper-fast fibre broadband would be truly wonderful, some of us out here on the urban fringe would be pathetically grateful for anything that works in the rain.



ED Balls took lot of stick on Strictly Come Dancing before being voted off at the weekend. But of all the contestants, he was closest to the original idea of the show which was to take people from different walks of life, teach them to dance and see how good they could become. Instead, genuine clod-hoppers like Balls find themselves pitched against established showbiz stars who are used to performing song and dance routines, not to mention Olympic gymnast Claudia Fragapane who enlivens her dances with effortless one-handed cartwheels, for goodness' sake. By voting for Balls to stay for ten weeks, viewers defied the experts, refused to toe the line and made a sloping playing field just a bit more level.

MYSTERIES of our time. A full refurbishment of Buckingham Palace will cost £370 million. A full refurbishment of the Palace of Westminster will cost more than 10 times as much, at £4,000m. Now, it may be that the Westminster job really is 10 times bigger than the one at Buck House. Or could it be that politicians spend public money like water while Her Majesty is known to watch every penny?

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Nuisance fires are being investigated

NUISANCE rubbish fires at a Dudley trading estate near an existing 3,000-ton waste mountain are being investigated by environment watchdogs.

People living near Shaw Road say there are regular fires at a site on Dudley Central Trading Estate and 'hot ash and cinders' fall from the sky most evenings as a result.

Residents are already having to

put up with a huge mountain of rubbish on the opposite side of the road at Rowan Oak Waste Ltd. The Environment Agency and Dudley Council have said they are investigating the fires.

Residents and businesses on Dudley Central Trading Estate say in a letter that there were 'unauthorised fires every weekday night'.

The letter to The Chronicle's sister

newspaper, the Express & Star, continues: "No-one is interested enough to do anything about the activities – eventually there will be a major fire on the estate as a result of this continual burning, with hot ash and cinders falling from the sky most evenings."

They add that the fires usually take place at around 5pm each week-day night.

A spokesman for the Environment Agency said: "We've had reports of waste being burned in the evenings at the Dudley Central Trading Estate site. We're working with Dudley Council to investigate and will take appropriate action where necessary."

Dudley Council confirmed that it has also been informed of the unauthorised burning of waste on Shaw Road.

Reduction in council tax relief set to hit poorest

By Richard Guttridge

THE poorest families in Dudley borough are facing a rise in their council tax.

Dudley Council is set to make changes to its reduction scheme, which aims to support low-income families by giving them council tax relief.

Currently, those eligible for the reduction pay 20 per cent of the council tax bill. The amount they will have to pay is now set to rise by two per cent, despite two-thirds of people who took part in the consultation stating they were against the move. The change could save the council more than £150,000.

Currently those eligible in an average Band D property pay £267.56 annually towards the full charge of £1,337.8. Next year's council tax has yet to be set but, if it remains the same, the amount to pay will rise to £294.32.

A decision is set to be made at a full council meeting on Monday but a report states the two per cent increase as the favoured option. Other options include keeping the scheme as it is, or even a five per cent rise.

Finance

The council's finance boss Councillor David Sparks said chiefs had done 'all we could' to protect low-income households but the authority needed to cut costs as a result of Government funding cuts.

The council currently grants around £19 million in council tax reduction, while still collecting around £120m from the rest of the borough.

A consultation on the proposals found that the majority of people preferred to keep the scheme as it is.

A total of 113 of 280 people said they 'strongly disagreed' with the proposals and 68 'disagreed'. Only 38 'strongly agreed', while 60 'agreed'.

Conservative councillor Steve Clark, shadow member for finance, said: "It is going to affect the most vulnerable people in Dudley."

Crooks steal from hospice shop



Goods donated to the Mary Stevens Hospice charity shop in Wordsley were stolen from an adjacent garage. RAIDERS made off with Christmas stock after a break-in at a charity shop in Wordsley.

Thieves targeted a garage at the back of The Mary Stevens Hospice Shop, on Lawnswood Road, which was used to store donated goods.

The heartless crooks stole up to 60 bags of donations. Staff were left devastated when they turned up on Tuesday last week to find everything had been stolen.

Area manager Gail Phillips said the garage had been half-full, but would not be used for storing donations again. She said: "We are all really upset about it. These items were generously donated."

The staff believe the theft must have taken place after they locked up on Monday (November 21). Among items

stolen were goods being gathered to create the Christmas hamper sold to raise money for the hospice.

The raid comes after the Stourbridge hospice launched its biggest fundraising drive, to raise £3 million for a re-vamp of the hospice on Hagley Road. The Wordsley shop is open again and determined to continue raising money.

Keely Mason called on fellow supporters to help replace the store's stock by donating more goods in the run-up to Christmas. She said: "This charity is very close to my heart as they took care of my nan. The majority who work for the charity are volunteers and the charity runs by our support and donations."

Donations can be made directly to the shop. Meanwhile, police are investigating the break-in.

Bill of over £402m to deal with youngsters

MORE than £402 million has been spent over the last year across the West Midlands on problem youngsters, which might have been prevented, according to new figures.

The Early Intervention Foundation, a charity that helps identify potential problems and helps families tackle them before they develop, has estimated the high cost of failing to intervene in time.

Early intervention involves identifying children and families that may be at risk of running into problems in areas of health, education and crime. It aims to prevent youngsters from dropping out of school, getting involved in crime or developing serious mental health problems.

Health visitors and youth offending teams are among those whose services may be called upon. If these problems are not spotted early enough, the cost of dealing with them later soars.

The charity said that in Wolverhampton £105 million was spent which equates to around £413 per person. In Dudley £107m was spent, working out to £337 per person, and in Birmingham £397 million was spent, equating to £357 per taxpayer.

Late intervention, such as hospitalisation and incarceration, tends to be more expensive.

A spokesman for the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children said: "Prevention is always better than cure, saves children from personal pain and suffering, also has the potential to alleviate the pressure on services."

Praise for cyclists who raised £1k

CYCLISTS from across the Black Country raised £1,000 for Wolverhampton's Compton Hospice in Hale-sown Athletic and Cycling Club's biggest ever annual sportive.

The Halesowen One Hundred Sportive attracted more than 200 participants, who followed either a 100km or a 50km route from the club's Manor Abbey Stadium into the Worcestershire countryside.

It was backed by Black Country cycling legend Hugh Porter, a patron of both the club and Compton Hospice, who said he was delighted to see the event grow.

"We had an excellent turnout of cyclists and the numbers are increasing year on year," said the four-time former world champion.

Troll along to mall for Danish beads

DANISH brand Trollbeads has opened a new shop at Merry Hill shopping centre.

The 10 sqm unit is on the Lower Mall and includes a play table, where customers can get creative and hands on with the jewellery.

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Shocking figures for serious crime by children

EIGHTY children aged 10 or 11 were arrested for numerous serious offences – including rape – in the West Midlands last year.

Two children were arrested on suspicion of raping a girl under 13 while three were arrested for the rape of a boy under 13 in 2015.

Eleven to 11-year-olds were arrested on suspicion of assaulting a person and causing them actual bodily harm, with a further five arrested for assault by beating.

One other was arrested for common assault and five more on suspicion of robbery.

The figures, released by West Midlands Police, showed in total 80 children aged 10 and 11 were arrested in 2015.

An NSPCC spokesman said the charity was concerned about the number of recorded alleged sex offences.

He said: "We know many sex offences against children are committed by their peers and it's crucial that work continues to understand why this behaviour is adopted."

"Ensuring these young people receive treatment and boosting the availability of support for their victims is key. Sexual offences, whether committed by another child or an adult, can have lifelong consequences."

Another child, aged 10 or 11, was arrested on suspicion of being involved with the production of cannabis, a class B drug.

Two children were arrested for attempting to wound a person with intent.

Speed camera call over road safety

A POLICE chief is calling for the return of speed cameras in a bid to reduce deaths on the roads – after Dudley Council revealed plans for new cameras on Birmingham New Road.

West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner David Jamieson has highlighted speeding as the issue that keeps coming up in investigations into fatal collisions.

It follows the decision in 2013 to switch off speed cameras in the Black Country because they were deemed too costly to run.

Mr Jamieson said he was asking councils to look again at this policy.

He said: "I am pressing them to take action where appropriate. Speeding over and over again comes back up."

Black Country's novel romance

DUDLEY author Nancy Carson's latest romantic novel was released in paperback this week.

Her ninth novel, Poppy's Dilemma, is about a railway worker's daughter in the Black Country in the 1850s.

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Former walk-in clinic is up for rent

A FORMER health walk-in centre in Dudley, which caused an outcry among residents when it closed, has gone on the market.

A senior Labour politician was among the supporters of a campaign to keep the Holly Hall clinic – which served 50,000 patients a year – open. But despite protests it was closed last year, replaced by an urgent care centre at Russells Hall.

Now the NHS is looking to rent out the centre, which could be used as a day centre, nursery or even a school.

It is on the market with a guide rent price of £1,667 per month.

Councillor Elaine Taylor, whose Netherton, Woodside & St Andrew's ward includes the former

walk-in centre, said she was against the building being left empty. But she maintains it should be brought back to its original use as a walk-in centre.

She said: "I do welcome any new investment because empty buildings do not do anybody any favours. I still feel this has to come back to the original use of the building."

"I was against the closure of Holly Hall in the beginning and I still think the new centre is not serving the people it needs to because of its location.

"Having said that, buildings that are left empty just turn into a state of disrepair."

Labour MP Andy Burnham, on a visit to Dudley when he was Shadow Secretary for Health, warned that closing the walk-in centre could be a 'major

mistake', saying: "It's obvious how valued this centre is because it's seeing 30,000 people a year."

The clinic used to see people without an appointment between 8am and 8pm in the week and up to 10pm at weekends. The new centre at Russells Hall Hospital is open 24 hours a day.

A description of the property on Rightmove suggests that it could become a clinic, day centre, creche nursery or school.

New images of the centre, also on the property website, show the interior has not changed much from when the building was open.

The property comprises a reception, waiting room, eight consulting rooms, office space, several toilets, basement and a barrier controlled car park.

NEWS IN BRIEF

3D print sweets at Merry Hill centre

THE world's first 3D printer to create sweets has been launched in the UK – including at Katjes Magic Candy Factory at Merry Hill shopping centre.

The printer may sound like something out of a Willy Wonka story but it actually allows people to print, in eight flavours, an edible shape including a message, hand drawn design or even a selfie – and it can be done in five minutes.

It is the first ever food certified 3D printer for gelatine free sweets, available online and in major shopping centres.

Pupils learn at canal heritage site

PUPILS from Wren's Nest Primary School had a chance to take over exhibition space for National Takeover Day 2016.

Dudley Canal Tunnel and Lime-stone Mines welcomed the Year 5 students to learn about the roles of curator and exhibition designer at the heritage site. Then they created an exhibition of their own design on the theme of Victorian life.

National Takeover Day 2016 is the latest initiative by Dudley Canal and Tunnel Trust working with youngsters since opening their new Portal building.

Builders stump up for cricketers

DAVID Wilson Homes Mercia has donated £200 to a tournament at Himley Cricket Club.

Now in its seventh year, the Black Country Floodlit T20 competition was held over six days and includes six local teams – Himley, Stourbridge, Wolverhampton, Halesowen, Brewood and Staffordshire.

To add to the festivities, some of the regions local breweries were on hand to offer their finest hand pulled cask ales throughout the week.

Pub grotto to cheer up children in hospital

STAFF stood in for elves when they made Santa's grotto at a Stourbridge pub.

Staff from the Britannia Inn at Wolaston have also filled the pub with festive goodies.

Entrance to the High Street pub's grotto is £5 and runs until Christmas, allowing youngsters to meet Santa and receive a gift.

Money raised will go towards buying Christmas presents for patients at Birmingham Children's Hospital.

Christmas concert

A CHRISTMAS concert is being held at the Methodist Church on Stream Road, Kingswinford, next Saturday (December 10). The BJ Concert Band perform at 7pm and musical director Steve Tromans invites the audience to join the singing. For free tickets call Mervyn Jackson on 07949 719757.

Every donation helps to make a difference

"EVERY donation matters" – that's the message from staff and volunteers busily working behind the scenes at the Black Country Food Bank.

The charity's warehouse in Brierley Hill is where every item donated is logged and stored before it is delivered to its 19 distribution centres. People can visit these centres to exchange vouchers for three days of emergency food supplies.

Around 40 volunteers work sorting donations and ensuring they are delivered to the different centres depending on demand. Every item is checked and the best before date written on it to ensure supplies are used in the right order.

"The biggest crime we commit is to waste food so it's important that we know when it has to be used by," said volunteer Kelvin Bates.

Any donation which must be used urgently is passed on to The Good Shepherd Ministry in Wolverhampton which serves hot meals to those in need.

Within the warehouse, items are stored by food type to make it easier for supplies to be gathered and for monitoring of stock.

"It's not as much as it looks. The cereals might just be enough for a few weeks and the whole lot would run out within a few months without further donations," said Mr Bates who has been volunteering for the charity for 11 years.

"We are grateful for everything we receive, every donation matters and makes a difference."

Crisis

Last year, the warehouse distributed 36,000kg of food across the Black Country which had been donated from the community including 70 churches and 50 schools.

It's not just food. The charity also hands out toiletries and cleaning supplies.

The charity provides crisis provision to an average of 1,400 people per month. Of those around 40 per cent are children.

The main issue people face is benefits being delayed or stopped, which leaves them turning to the food bank for help. It partners with around 250 local agencies in an effort to ensure that food goes those in genuine need.

Mr Bates, aged 68, from Brierley Hill, said the charity was well-supported in the community.

"This job restores your faith in humanity. It's wonderful to see what people have given to help people they have never met and are never likely to."

"We often hear about the bad things that are



The volunteer team: Jen Williams, Mike Crook, Niall Jackson and Kelvin Bates at Black Country Food Bank

happening in the community – we don't tend hear about all of the good things. This is the good that is happening every day," he added.

Jen Williams, aged 67, from Kingswinford, has been volunteering for 12 months, having previously worked at Debenhams and as a hairdresser.

She said: "I was amazed at how much this food was needed. I had no idea how hard some people were finding it just to get enough to eat."

"I love volunteering here because I know I'm doing my bit to help those less fortunate."

The Black Country Food Bank is one of the good causes which will benefit from the Express & Star's Feed A Family This Christmas appeal.

With the help of readers The Chronicle's sister

newspaper wants to provide families with Christmas treats they would otherwise not be able to afford as well, as supplying them with store-cupboard essentials to keep them going through the festive season.

As part of the Feed A Family campaign, the Express & Star will also be supporting The Well (Home of the Wolverhampton Food Bank), the Good Shepherd Ministry in Wolverhampton, Smethwick Food Bank, Walsall North Food Bank and Cannock and District Food Bank.

Also receiving support will be The Haven which provides both practical and emotional support services to women and children who are affected by domestic violence and homelessness.

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Stella's not on the ball with latest assertions

I'VE always had a lot of time for Stella Creasy, the West-Midland born MP for Walthamstow once seen as a rising star of the Labour Party.

This is partly because I remember her as a young parliamentary assistant to then Dudley North MP Ross Cranston after finishing university in the 1990s. But more to the point, unlike some of her perpetually disgruntled colleagues, she has come up with some original ideas and thought-provoking campaigns. Her work exposing the extortionate interest rates of payday lenders is a case in point.

But her latest assertion, that the consistent underperformance of the England football team is down to the fact that not enough players went to comprehensive schools, is way off beam.

Miss Creasy says 13 per cent of players picked for England are privately educated – twice the national average – meaning that the talent pool is too narrow.

But, 13 per cent actually amounts to two players, Theo Walcott and Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain.

But if Stella did a bit of digging, she would find that over the years a disproportionate number of England footballers actually went to a single comprehensive school – Idsall School in Shifnal, which is close to where the FA academy at Lilleshall is based.

I know everyone loves a bit of diversity these days but I don't think the failure of the England team is down to Wayne Rooney and Raheem Sterling being too posh. You could blame the money-obsessed Premier League and its demands for instant success, meaning clubs would rather buy ready-made overseas players than nurture their own talent. Or you could blame successive governments, including those of Miss Creasy's party, for selling off school playing fields. But really, I think it's down to the fact that our footbalers are not very good.

■ ■ ■

NOW I doubt if there has ever been much honour among thieves. People who say such things tend to be the sort of dewy eyed, rose-tinted sentimentalists who recall how the Krays had nice table manners.

But there are some crimes taking place today which truly defy belief, that one could not possibly imagine even a couple of decades ago.

Take last week's break-in at the Mary Stevens Hospice shop in Wordsley.

Thieves stole 50 bags of items donated to make hampers which would raise money for those with incurable illnesses.

What sort of person steals from the terminally ill? While we don't know the motives in this case, all too often it turns out that drugs are involved somewhere.

What I do know is that the maximum sentence for a non-dwelling burglary is 10 years. Maybe it should be used more often.



Patsy Kensit, who opened proceedings in 2000



Charlotte Church, seen performing in 2005



Actor Vinnie Jones kicked things off in 1999



Gok Wan and Arlene Phillips at 2010's event

Brum is wear it's at as Clothes Show bows out



Alexandra Burke on stage at the NEC in 2011



All rise – boyband Blue during their appearance, from left, Duncan, Anthony, Simon and Lee



Katie Price at the 'designer beach' in 2009

FROM football hardman Vinnie Jones to Welsh singer Charlotte Church and soap star Patsy Kensit, the Clothes Show doors have opened to a cornucopia of stars in Brum over the years.

Other notables include Dawn French, socialite Tara Palmer-Tomkinson and singer Alexandra Burke who have all graced the event since it debuted in 1989.

This year the show stages its last event since moving to the city in 1990, before relocating to Liverpool next year. It takes place from tomorrow, Friday to Tuesday. Caryn Franklin MBE ran The Clothes Show for 12 years from 1986 to 1998.

As final preparations are made for the NEC's last Clothes Show Live, ALEX ROSS looks back at its colourful history

She said: "When I began presenting the BBC's Clothes Show as Fashion Editor of i-D Magazine back in 1986, I had no idea it would have such a far reaching effect and long-term impact on public perception of the fashion industry."

"Our approach to showcasing high-end designer fashion alongside artisan and high street product together with personal and homemade creativity to celebrate all body

types, ages and tastes caught the imagination of the nation and beyond." Among the now-famous models who were first found at the show were Brownhills-based model Erin O'Connor, Oliver Cheshire, Sami Rollinson and Rosie Tapner.

TV personalities were also unearthed – from Cat Deeley to Holly Willoughby and Vernon Kay. Presenters have also included Dermot O'Leary, Louise Redknapp, Gok Wan and Fearne Cotton. Music acts, dancers and models have also taken to the stage to entertain the crowds. They include Boyzone, JLS, Charlotte Church and Alexandra Burke.

This year the event is recognising and celebrating the talent of young people within the music industry.

It is carrying out a search to find a male and

female artiste who will become the headline acts in the iconic Alcatel Fashion Theatre, in association with Capital FM.

At its launch in October, 1986 on the BBC, The Clothes Show was designed to bring high fashion to the general public, tackling issues such as sweatshops and eating disorders.

Viewing figures rose throughout the 1980s and 1990s, peaking to nine million on the Sunday night.

The live show has seen more than 100,000 visitors every December.

It has become an important day in the calendar to mark fashion history and heritage.

But it has not been without its problems over the years. In 1991 many people were actually snowed in because of the bad weather and had to stay at the NEC overnight.

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Roseville calling... remember us?

I'M not sure if anyone knows the little village of Roseville, Coseley. That is of course anyone except the railway users at Coseley station, for two years now I along with other business owners have been constantly badgering Dudley Council regarding the parking issue, now I'm wondering if they realise we even exist!

Our car parks are blocked from 7am until 7pm. Every time you ring you're told, yes we're aware of the problem and it's being monitored.

We now have to park outside the village

Failings on dementia homecare

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST
Dudley Chronicle,
Chronicle Editorial,
51-53 Queen Street
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

EMAIL
dudley.chrons@
expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Ditch the tired old rhetoric councillor

COUNCILLOR Khurshid Ahmed states that Dudley Council have come up with 'exciting proposals'. The proposals are simply to close three good leisure centres and build two.

Now what would be even more exciting and thrilling would be if the three were invested in properly and two new leisure centres were built to replace the ones already shut down in Brierley Hill.

In this area their cuts have closed the fire station, the ambulance station, the law courts and the social services office.

Instead we hear the same old tired rhetoric. They always tell us that the buildings are falling to bits. Here in Halesowen we are used to all that, because it was all said before. There was a change in political power and - Hey Presto! Halesowen Leisure Centre

stayed open and they shut down Brierley Hill instead.

Of course, the real culprits are the Tories who are cutting and cutting services. They circle like vultures and can't wait to privatise the NHS.

In this area their cuts have closed the fire station, the ambulance station, the law courts and the social services office.

It is time that the Labour Council said enough is enough, but instead they make foolish statements about 'exciting proposals' as though we might actually believe such nonsense!

Keep all leisure centres open by investing in them.

C STOLL
Halesowen

The King is a true megastar

REGARDING the King, Elvis Presley. I think it's so brilliant to see the two albums of the King with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra (If I Can Dream, The Wonder Of You) go to number one in the album charts - almost 40 years after his passing.

That makes it a record 13 number one albums, which sits proudly alongside his 21 number one singles, also a record.

A true megastar - a word loosely used for a lot of stars today.

Elvis Presley always wanted to sing with an orchestra, I hope we get more of these recordings.

He also sold more records than any other artist and spent more time in the charts than any other artist.

His music will never fade, a true great artist, no one else comes near.

MEL HARPER
Coseley

Hippodrome is an 'eyesore'

HAVING read the article in Dudley Chronicle regarding the Hippodrome, I have a couple of questions to ask.

Who is going to fund this crazy scheme? Five million pounds is not easily raised. I only hope the tax payers are not funding it!

If these people are given the keys for five years that means the eyesore remains for six years at least.

I really cannot imagine that these people will be able to get the venue up and running but they should consider tidying up the frontage first.

Keep all leisure centres open by investing in them.

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Electric cars spark 10,000 Jaguar jobs for the region

THE boss of Jaguar Land Rover wants to make new electric vehicles in the West Midlands, creating 10,000 new jobs at the auto maker and up to 60,000 more in its supply chain across the region.

Ralf Speth has also outlined ambitions to double JLR's car production to one million vehicles a year by 2020 – and double its workforce to 90,000.

Allstars help mayor raise charity funds

FORMER Wolves stars including ex-captain Jody Craddock turned out to boost a fundraising match for the Mayor of Dudley's charities.

Hundreds of supporters saw the Wolves Allstars team turn out against Dudley Town, at The Dell Stadium, in Brierley Hill, on Sunday.

Some of the funds will be given to the Black Country Fibromyalgia Support Group which is backed by Dudley Town.

Funds will also be given to charities backed by mayor Councillor Mohamed Hanif. These include Friends of Alfie Johnson, which helps children with disabilities, the Dudley group of Diabetes UK and Dudley CIL, which helps people who are physically and visually impaired.

Councillor Hanif donned the number two shirt for Dudley Town and put in a short cameo appearance in the match. The Allstars team won 6-0. Colin Taylor, Seyi Olofinjana and Greg Walters were among the scorers.

The plans were outlined as a special meeting of political and business leaders at Warwick University on Thursday night, organised by Professor Lord Kumar Bhattacharyya, a close adviser to JLR and its Indian owners, Tata Motors, and the head of the university's Warwick Manufacturing Group.

Lord Bhattacharyya said JLR wanted to start work on the electric cars project at Coventry by 2018, with cars going into production by 2019.

It follows the launch of JLR's first electric car, the I-Pace, in Los Angeles last week.

Generation

It will be built in Austria 'because we couldn't do it fast enough in this country,' said Lord Bhattacharyya.

"But the next generation will be done here, hopefully. That will create 10,000 jobs, and there will be more employed at suppliers. That could literally be another 50,000 to 60,000 jobs among suppliers in the region."

Mr Speth had also said he wanted to produce one million cars a year by 2020 – the company is expected to make 500,000 this year.

"For that they will have to double the workforce to around 90,000," said Lord Bhattacharyya.

Massive investment has seen JLR's workforce double to over 40,000, including more than 1,000 jobs created at the brand new engine factory built on Wolverhampton's i54 site.

Club is going under the hammer



The former Conservative Club, most recently Bar Eleven, offered for £250,000

THE FORMER Stourbridge Conservative Club building, which is now a bar and night-club, is being sold in a property auction next week.

The building in New Road, most recently known as Bar Eleven, has a guide price of £250,000 when it goes under the hammer.

It is one of 109 lots in SDL Bigwood's final auction in the Holts Suite at Villa Park on Thursday, December 8, starting at 11am.

Bar Eleven is an independently run nightspot with three bars and a capacity of 300. It is open all week and hosts DJs and tribute bands on a large fully equipped stage.

After closure of the Conservative Club in 2007, the building on the ring road became a target for vandalism. But it was then brought back into use as a live music venue and recording studio called Moochers Jailhouse, which opened in 2012. Two years ago Moochers was taken over by Bar Eleven.

On website Rightmove the property is described as a spacious, traditional building. It is configured to provide bar areas, club room or music venue. It states that the property is considered suitable for a variety of alternative uses or redevelopment, subject to planning permission.

Ceremony is held to honour organ donors

BLACK Country organ donors who have saved lives have been posthumously honoured at a special ceremony. The Order of St John award for Organ Donation, run in conjunction with NHS Blood and Transplant, was presented to their loved ones.

The ceremony held at Birmingham's Queen Elizabeth Hospital saw the awards presented by the Deputy Lieutenant of West Midlands, Dr Heidi Doughty.

Kenneth Harrold from Kingswinford, accepted the honour on behalf of his son, Graham John Harrold. From Halesowen were both Annalyn Eulogio, on behalf of her husband, Reden Eulogio, and Joanne Rimmer, on behalf of her father, Ron Bentley.

During 2015/16, the number of deceased donors in the UK went up from 1,282 to 1,364, a rise of six per cent. However, there are still around 6,500 people on the UK transplant waiting list – around three people die each day in need of an organ.

Keith Hunter, of the Order of St John, said: "We hope the example set by the organ donors, whose lives we are honouring, encourages many others to join the NHS Organ Donor Register." Visit www.organdonation.nhs.uk or call 0300 123 2323

Actor gives a sneaky peaky of TV schedule

STARS of Peaky Blinders are due to return to Dudley in March when filming of the gangster drama resumes.

Star of the hit TV series, actor Cillian Murphy, confirmed that work on series four starts in the spring, when he was interviewed at the premiere of new movie Free Fire.

The story of Brummie gangsters is set between the wars and much of the filming takes place at the Black Country Living Museum, on Tipton Road. Peaky Blinders has become an international hit and inspired a fashion craze for 1920s haircuts and caps.

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Thousands of fans join in tribute to brave Lydia

THOUSANDS of football fans paid a moving tribute to young Lydia Pearce Ameson, the Dudley girl who died from a rare illness last week.

A packed Molineux – some 28,000 supporters – marked the passing of the 15-year-old Wolves fan on the 15th minute during the match on Saturday by providing a minute of applause in her honour.

Lydia's family and friends were welcomed by Wolves in an executive box as the club hosted Sheffield Wednesday in a Championship match.

Fans of both teams paid their respects to Lydia, who was diagnosed with Neurofibromatosis Type 1 when she was just 18 months old.

The illness is a rare genetic condition which causes tumours to grow along nerves.

Crowd

Wolves were losing after conceding from the penalty spot but that made no difference to the outpouring of emotion, with the club's biggest home crowd in 18 months applauding the youngster.

All around Molineux tens of thousands of people stood up to applaud, including almost three thousand of the fans from Yorkshire.

The Express & Star's Wolves reporter Tim Spiers said: "It was a thunderous ovation, despite the fact the team had just gone behind. It was a really emotional moment."

Sarah Ameson, her mother, said: "It was fantastic and there was a little star above us and we said that was Lydia."

"Everyone at the Wolves looked after us so well and we would like to offer a huge thank you for all their support."

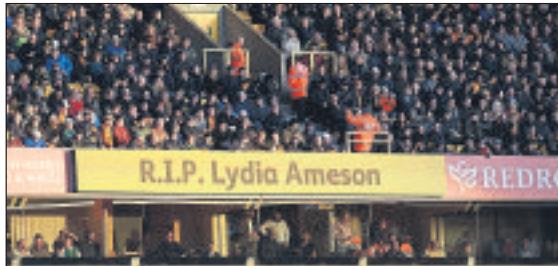
"There were nine of us all together



Devoted Wolves fan Lydia Ameson



Wolves' Danny Bath visited Lydia



Fans pay tribute to Dudley Wolves fan Lydia Ameson during the 15th minute including Lydia's uncles, godfather and three of her friends.

The atmosphere was amazing. Her name even shot up on the big screen in the Molineux. It was just perfect."

Captain Danny Bath visited Lydia's home in Dudley last month to hand over a signed shirt to the Bishop Milner Catholic College pupil.

Her mother said: "She was a beautiful and confident girl who loved her family and friends very much. She had also done a Bake-Off style charity fundraiser in aid of Neurofibromatosis."

A JustGiving page which was set up for Lydia has raised nearly £10,000. To donate visit www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/lydiaperceameson

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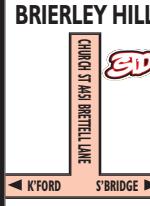
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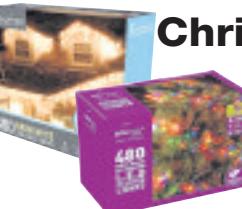
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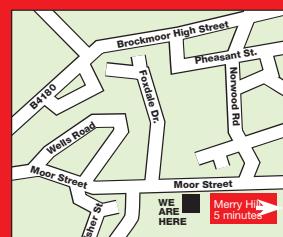
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From heartbreak to fundraising to help Daisy

A FAMILY in Dudley have turned their heartbreak into a fundraising campaign after being told their newborn daughter has cystic fibrosis.

Mother-of-two Samantha Carrier struggled to cope after being told the news about newborn Daisy, which was detected from a heel prick test five days after being born.

Samantha and her partner Rob Evans, from Gornal, raised £676 within seven days of the diagnosis.

Samantha said: "We had a knock on the door from a nurse from Birmingham Children's Hospital telling us she had tested positive.

"We went straight to the hospital the next day to get the medication and get the process started and it was that day we decided we wanted to fundraise and put our minds to something else to raise awareness."

Shouting

"I couldn't really cope with it at first so I started a JustGiving page with an aim over £1,000 over 12 months but we've raised over half within a week."

"On the first day it got up to £500 which I couldn't believe because I was running around shouting when we only had £100."

"Ian Austin MP has also offered to help in any way he can."

Cystic fibrosis is a genetic condition in which the lungs and digestive system can become clogged with mucus - causing problems with breathing and digestion from a young age.

Over many years, the lungs become increasingly damaged and may eventually stop working properly.

A number of treatments are available to help reduce the problems caused by the condition, but unfortunately average life expectancy is reduced for people who have it.



Facing the future together - Samantha Carrier with daughters Daisy and Grace

"The hospital have been really positive but they said a treatment for the condition is being blocked by the government because it's so expensive," says Samantha.

"The aim of it all is to make people aware of cystic fibrosis and try and help push for that necessary treatment."

"We want to raise money for the trust because they're amazing, they support families and research and fund new treatment."

Samantha's daughter Grace, two, also tries to lend Sam a hand when she can.

"Grace helps as much as she can with things like banging on Daisy's chest and sides to move any mucus," she added.

Visit justgiving.com/fundraising/fordaisleyevans and supporters can also follow Daisy's story at www.facebook.com/fordaisleyevans/

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Former part time fireman Michael Jewkes with comrades in 1963



Mr Jewkes finds his uniform still on the peg, where it's been hanging for more than 50 years



Mr Jewkes tests the old fire siren during his visit to Dudley



Love me tender – Mr Jewkes checks over the machinery left at the old factory fire station

Firefighter 'Little Mike' takes a trip back in time

A FORMER firefighter has travelled back in time to a recently discovered, perfectly preserved factory fire station in Dudley, where he used to work.

Michael Jewkes, aged 80, said it was an 'emotional to revisit the old station, which has been gathering dust for 60 years, and was only recently uncovered inside the Alan Nuttall Partnership factory on Hall Street.

Mr Jewkes' name is one of those on jackets still hanging at the lost station, which was set up by his former employer the Co-operative Wholesale Society to tackle any fires that might arise in the course of manufacturing items for local Co-op stores.

Michael's journey into his past began after his granddaughter spotted the story on the Express & Star website.

Mr Jewkes, who now lives in Lowestoft, explained: "All the family are originally from the area. My granddaughter lives in Yeovil but she still

MEMORY LANE

Report by Judith Hawkins

reads the Express & Star online. She saw the story about it being discovered and told me. I called the number and spoke to Anna at the Alan Nuttall Partnership Trust and they arranged for me to come and visit."

Frozen

He added: "I must admit, I was like a two-year-old child with a stick of rock. I couldn't believe it after all this time."

Nothing could have prepared Michael for just how much remained intact, almost as if it had been frozen in time, down to the neatly rolled-up canvas hoses still on the walls.

Particularly evocative for him was seeing all the names of his former colleagues scrawled in chalk above the jackets.

"I could hear all of the voices and all of the banter. I could remember the

nicknames. I was very tall so they used to call me Little Mike," he said.

"I hadn't been back for 54 years. It was very emotional. I was remembering all of my comrades. We used to look out for each other, like a big family."

Mr Jewkes explained how between 1960 and 1964 he worked at the factory making safes for the supermarket business, but twice a week he would go for training as a firefighter in the company's small brigade of about 25. This included learning life-saving skills such as resuscitation.

He was relieved that he never had to put this into practice.

"The biggest job we had was probably when the paint shop caught fire, and the van was set alight. But fortunately everyone was out safely," he said.

He and his comrades proved their mettle in a competition with other Co-op forces with Mr Jewkes named champion. A certificate in recognition of this remains on display in the room.



In action for an exercise to test firefighting skills, Michael Jewkes during his time in uniform

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Museum's bid to raise £10,000 in just 72 hours

THE Black Country Living Museum is launching a bid to raise £10,000 in 72 hours to bring its colliery back to life.

The popular open air museum is calling on the public to help reach the total.

Bosses have also teamed up with TheBigGive.org.uk which will match every donation pound for pound.

Revealing their plans a spokesman for the museum on Tipton Road said: "Coal mines and collieries were the heart and soul of the region."

"They fuelled the industrial development of the Black Country and helping to create the world we live in today."

"We want our visitors to be able to experience this story for themselves and to do this we're going to revitalise our Racecourse Colliery."

In order to complete the work the museum staff need to raise £205,000.

So far £80,000 has been collected with donations from sources such as Arts Council England and the Owen Family Trust.

Challenge

The museum has already raised £80,000 from sources, including Arts Council England and the Owen Family Trust, but in order to complete the work are looking to raise £205,000 in total.

Between Tuesday this week and tomorrow (Friday) the museum is taking part in The Big Give's #ChristmasChallenge with the aim of raising £10,000 in 72 hours.

Once all the money is secured and the project is finished visitors will be able to see Charlie, the museum's pit pony, pull a tub along the restored tramway.

Museum chiefs fear the tub tramway could be lost forever unless investment is made.

The museum also plans to install a pit cage to show how miners were lowered into the shaft, with demon-



Black Country Living Museum unveils £205,000 plans for the coal mine area

of new characters to talk about the region's history and provide stories of real people who once worked at the colliery. A video about the project on The Big Give website. Visit www.bclm.co.uk for further details.

Eager recruits for army style discipline at college

TEENAGERS from across the Black Country have been attending a unique college for those with hopes of a career in uniform.

The Military Preparation College, which opened this summer in Dudley, is run by ex-military veterans and aims to help people aged 16 to 19 prepare for future employment or further education, as well as moving into careers in the Armed Forces.

The college, which opened in July, received Government funding to operate and students spend half of every day outdoors by taking part in a range of physical training exercises. There are more than 20 military preparation colleges across England and Wales.

Instructors work with each young person to help them achieve their best and help them get their foot through the door and into their aspiring career in the armed forces.

Struggled

Some of the pupils struggled with typical school education and have left or been expelled and have now been enrolled onto the army style course.

If the students would rather have a career in another sector, help and skills are provided, along with GCSE qualifications.

There are also military preparation colleges in Wolverhampton at Frankley for Birmingham.

Paul Evans, regional manager for the military college in Birmingham, Wolverhampton and Dudley, said: "For some of the students here school has been tough or they haven't enjoyed it so they have therefore suffered."

"We offer an alternative curriculum which students will enjoy more."

Paul added: "It takes an average of six months before the students are



Students are put through their paces



Manager and former soldier Paul Evans



Ben Kirkham and Tiff Slade run ready to go on into the army. They can start any week and leave any week they like."

Two ex-military staff are instructors at the college and assist the youngsters with their physical training schedule.

Former Royal Fusilier Daniel Cooper said: "The students are nur-



Team building in Buffery Park

readyed through progression to become complete."

The colleges have 86 per cent progression into further education, training or employment, and have been rated outstanding by Ofsted.

See www.mpct.co.uk for further details.

16 Duo's marathon trek in memory of Alf



Friends Tom Broomhall and Joe Cartwright are to walk from the Black Country to London for charity

A BUILDER is to walk more than a marathon daily for three days to raise funds in memory of his father.

Tom Broomhall, 25, from Broseley, is to embark on the marathon challenge with his friend Joe Cartwright, 25, from Wombourne, just after Christmas.

The lifelong friends are to walk 125 miles from Wombourne to London beginning on December 28. They are hoping to raise £500 for the British Heart Foundation in memory of Mr Broomhall's father Alf, who died in August

after a heart attack. Mr Broomhall said: "On August 31 this year my father sadly passed away from a heart attack. "He was 66, it was a shock. We are raising the money in memory of Alf for the hope that the charity can continue to the brilliant job they are doing. Each year 160,000 people die from a heart attack and a further 73,000 people die from coronary heart disease in the UK alone, hopefully we can reduce this number. To donate visit www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Joe-Cartwright3

Why physics radiates fun

YOUNGSTERS were encouraged to don their lab coats and goggles as a city MP joined them to take part in an experiment.

Pupils at Smestow School in Castlecroft were joined by Rob Marris for a radiation experiment as part of a project to encourage more children to take up physics.

He visited the school to talk to teachers and pupils about the Institute of Physics' Stimulating Physics Network.

The project pairs schools with a teaching and learning coach with the aim of retraining teachers of other science specialisms to be physics teachers.

Head of science at Smestow, Jack Whitehead, said: "Physics is a wonderfully interesting and diverse subject, yet the numbers of pupils choosing it at A-level is falling, particularly amongst girls."



Rob Marris tries experiment

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Seven homes among top of 999 call-outs

SEVEN homes in the Black Country are among the top 10 private properties with the most amount of ambulance call-outs in the West Midlands.

A property in Tipton had 515 call-outs in the one-year period up to October 31. This was followed by two properties in Wolverhampton which had 506 and 390 call-outs in the same time period respectively.

Out of the 515 call-outs to the property in Tipton, 298 involved paramedics being sent, six ended up with a patient being transported for care. For the address in Wolverhampton which had 506 call-outs, 415 resulted in crews being sent to the scene, 45 with a patient being taken to care.

Advice

At the other property in the city which had 390 call-outs, 346 resulted in vehicles being dispatched, 23 seeing a patient being taken in to care. West Midlands Ambulance Service spokesman Murray McGregor said the figures were 'staggering'.

He said: "When you get large numbers of calls it is because the person calling has not found a route of path for care. We hold meetings with partner agencies in such circumstances to discuss how we can help or advise the patient."

He added: "The numbers are staggering. It is a drain on our resources and not the best way for our call operators to spend their time dealing with repeated calls."

Other private properties in the top 10 properties were addresses in Bilston with 331 call-outs, West Bromwich, 320, Wolverhampton, 279, and Oldbury, 193.

Exact addresses were not given to protect the identity of those involved. West Midlands Ambulance Service deals with around 3,000 emergency calls each day. The service says that 60 per cent of patients end up requiring emergency care, the rest receive advice over the phone or are taken to another service such as a GP or minor injuries unit.

Baby's looking a bit pale



Mother keeps an eye on one of her one-week-old Jackson's Chameleon youngster, at Wild Zoological Park, Bobbington

A CHAMELEON at Wild Zoological Park has given birth to 17 babies. The endangered lizard, named Jacksons, gave birth to the babies including this cub who has just started to emerge from the den.

The mother, Lola, can be seen keeping an eye on her one-week-old youngster. This particular type of chameleon is one of only few species to give birth to live babies rather than laying eggs.

Teams from the park are finding out whether more babies are developing inside of her due to the nature of production. The 17 babies are all healthy. Lola has been at the park for 12 months.

Wild Zoological Park opened in August and is at Halfpenny Green in Bobbington. The park is split into four different regions including Africa, Asia, Australia and America.

Visitors are also given the chance to walk through enclosures alongside Wallabies and Lemurs along with the opportunity to see live shows everyday which feature free flying birds, parrots and other birds of prey. The zoo's Christmas winter wonderland is on December 23. Ticket prices start from £4.

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Concern over exclusion policy

COUNCIL bosses in Sandwell have contacted the regional schools commissioner over the number of exclusions at academies.

A total of 105 pupils have been permanently excluded from academy schools in Sandwell over the last two years and children's bosses have flagged up concerns. Academies are not under council control.

Continuous disruption, drug and alcohol abuse, threats to teachers and fellow pupils were among reasons troublemakers were banned. Sandwell Council said it had raised the issue with the schools commissioner.

Permanent exclusion is the most severe form of disciplinary action. Headteachers are advised only to use the measure as a last resort. But figures for 2014/15 showed 44 children were excluded for 'persistent disruptive behaviour'.

TWO Black Country colleges have been ranked among the best in the country by apprenticeship and training providers, according to a new report.

Dudley College and Walsall College were rated joint third in the league table by FE Week. The two colleges scored 14 out of 16. Wolverhampton College wasn't far behind after being given a total of 13.

However, it was not such good news for neighbouring Sandwell College – which was placed

among the bottom 20 per cent in the same table. Dudley College was helped to its high position thanks to its high employer satisfaction score, which saw 91 per cent of employers rate it highly in meeting their training needs.

Support

It also received a creditable learner satisfaction score – with 86 per cent of students giving the thumbs up to their learning experience at the college.

Principal Lowell Williams said: "Our high level ranking in the college league table is a

great achievement as it demonstrates we're doing a top job to support the learners and employers we work with. It's particularly pleasing that other Black Country colleges were in the top five places on the table too, as this shows the further education system across the region is in good shape and responding to the skills challenges we face."

"This ranking is testimony to the great efforts of our staff and our learners. But we will work tirelessly to continue to improve what we do as there's no reason we shouldn't be in first place next time the table is published."

Council take action on shops



The shops that Dudley Council have targeted for improvements on Long Lane at Shell Corner

DUDLEY Council is taking action over eyesore properties on Long Lane.

A maintenance of land notice has been issued to a group of shops in Shell Corner to clean windows, remove waste and take down old out-of-date signs.

It comes after Councillor Stuart Henley, a representative of Halesowen North ward, complained that the area was blighted by dereliction, litter and crime.

Frontages

The notice, which has been attached to the front of the empty shops, states that the frontages of 303A and 304 Long Lane must have clean windows, frames and cladding along with taking 'all reasonable steps' to clear and remove any waste or litter.

Specifics to 303A, which is the former Tudor Law shop, state: 'Remove all sig-

nage, clean the front door, doorstep, stall riser and the flashing above the main shop front fascia.'

At 304, formerly Hedzup, broken glass will need to be reinstated, signage removed and the front of shop painted in a dark colour. Litter, waste, rubbish and weeds are also required to be dealt with.

Councillor Henley said: "I have e-mailed a couple of officers to find out when the work will be carried out.

"The good thing is they have been pushing the owners of the premises to get them sorted and put notices on."

"The flats above were sold recently and people are moving in, so we need them cleaned as soon as possible."

"They have been bringing the area down for a while now. We need the area tidied up and the shops are a key start."

DUDLEY Council is helping residents tackle condensation in their homes with a new advice leaflet and video on its website.

Anyone experiencing such a problem can download an advice leaflet and view a video on the Dudley Council www.dudley.gov.uk website.

Condensation is caused when warm moist air comes into contact with cold air or a cold surface, causing water droplets to form. This is particularly an issue during winter when homes are warmer than outside.

Housing boss Councillor Gaye Partridge said: "Condensation and mould can be a particular problem during the winter months so we produced a leaflet and a video which work hand in hand."

"These items have been produced primarily with council tenants in mind, but are relevant to anyone experiencing condensation in their home."

Council is offering condensation advice

Remember loved ones

THE annual remembrance services are being held at Gornal Wood Cemetery and Crematorium next Sunday, December 11.

The services in the chapel at 11am and 3pm are intended for people who have had the funerals of loved ones take place at the site during 2016.

Tickets can be reserved from the office for the cemetery and crematorium in Chase Road on (01384) 813782.

Members of staff will be on hand for guidance.

Two Black Country colleges are ranked among best in country

Creative hi-tech at code club

TECH savvy youngsters are invited to join a coding club at Brierley Hill Library. The weekly code club runs every Friday during term time from 4.30 to 5.30pm.

Youngsters can learn how to make games, animations and create websites from scratch.

Coding is also now on the school curriculum.

Digital

The club follows on from the huge success of a digital festival held at Halesowen Library, which was attended by more than 600. Visitors watched demonstrations of 3D printers and more.

For information on code club visit www.codeclub.org.uk or call (01384) 812955

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Bright ideas for home as we head into winter

ANTIQUES AND COLLECTIBLES

with John Ridgway of Perry & Phillips



GIVEN the foul weather this week, I thought it would be nice to take a look around our homes and add some seasonal colour to help fight off those winter blues.

And there are all kinds of vintage items you could pick up in the saleroom to help do this, starting with attractive containers for dried flowers, twisted willow, firethorn or foliage that will instantly transform any room into a brighter place.

You can easily pick up some nice pieces at auction, go along to the viewing days and see what you can find – and you won't have to spend too much money.

Look out for prettily decorated china jugs, the taller the better, but make sure you check for cracks to ensure the jug is waterproof if you want it for fresh flowers.

Glass jugs and vases look great and you may be able to pick these up in some lovely autumnal colours, again look out for any cracks or chips before you buy.

Earthenware containers are always nice, large ones are perfect for displays of foliage in halls or sitting rooms, standing on the floor.

China vases in bright colours or featuring attractive designs are ideal for autumnal displays of flowers or foliage, even small ones will cheer up the corner of a room.

Unusual containers also look good, a pretty vintage soup tureen would provide a home for a larger display or a winter indoor plant.

Then about adding some lamps with colourful shades to provide some much-needed extra light.

Tiffany lamps in particular are especially attractive and you can pick up some nice reproduction ones if you don't want to pay out for originals.

Potpourri is good in vintage bowls and glasses and looks especially nice displayed in layers in old glass vases.

Coloured candles, either standing alone or in groups, also add that extra cheery light, look out for gold and silver ones, and tea-lights can be housed in anything from a tea-cup to a wooden goblet.

You can even make going out in the rain slightly more pleasant by keeping umbrellas in a colourful umbrella stand or vintage plant bowl by your front door (add a Victorian umbrella and a walking stick for effect).

So have a good browse around the saleroom to see what you can find to add that extra seasonal cheer.

Perry and Phillips Auctioneers hold sales of antiques and collectables on the first Tuesday of each month. Valuation days, for sale items only, are held every Wednesday at the Mill Street saleroom in

Low Town, Bridgnorth, from 10am until 4pm. The next sale takes place on this Tuesday, December 6, viewing is during the weekend and on the Monday prior to the sale. If you want to bid during the auction and are a new bidder please arrive in plenty of time to register and be allocated a bidding number.

Council vans are dumped in canal



One of the Dudley Council vans is pulled out of the canal
Picture by Dean Cartwright

THIEVES stole vans used to help the elderly and disabled in Dudley and dumped them in a canal.

The vans were stolen from the Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council depot in Kingswinford on November 11. They ended up in the canal near Cinder Bank roundabout.

Rescue vehicles were called to the towpath to pull the council vans out of the canal. The vans will be useless after having been totally submerged with only a van roof to be seen poking out of the water before they were hauled back onto dry land.

Councillor Qadar Zada, cabinet member for adult social care at the council, said: "This is a senseless and appalling crime, to steal two vans used for transporting equipment to the elderly and disabled."

"I am disgusted that they have targeted the most vulnerable in our community and we take this very seriously."

Motorway projects on right road, says chief

MORE than £600 million worth of motorway projects are making 'real progress', according to the country's top highways executive.

Jim O'Sullivan, chief executive of Highways England, said five major projects – including the improvement of junction 10 of the M6 between Wolverhampton and Walsall – will bring jobs and boost the region's economy.

He made the comments as he gave the opening speech of a two-day Highways UK event at the NEC in Birmingham.

He said: "We are currently delivering more than £15 billion of investment in over 100 major schemes across England that will enhance, renew and improve the network. It's fantastic to see key projects like these in the Midlands making real progress."

Strategic

"The Midlands is at the heart of England's strategic road network and investment in schemes like these benefits the whole country. This region really is the 'Midlands Engine' which drives the country."

He said that planning is set to begin next month for the M6 junction 10 improvements with a public consultation.

By Rob Golledge

tation launching in January. Construction is set to start in April 2019, finishing in late 2020.

The overhaul will see lanes going over the motorway increase from two to four with bridges rebuilt to ease congestion.

The initial plans are at the design stage but will be revealed early next year. More details will be announced shortly of how people can take part and find out more, he said.

The M6 junction 10 currently experiences significant congestion, particularly during morning and evening rush hours.

Road capacity problems have been identified as one of the main transport issues within the West Midlands Local Transport Plan. Highways England is working with Walsall Council.

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Party food Hell for poor dentures – seeded breads



Ill-fitting dentures and nuts just don't mix



Dry turkey can also be a problem for ill-fitting teeth



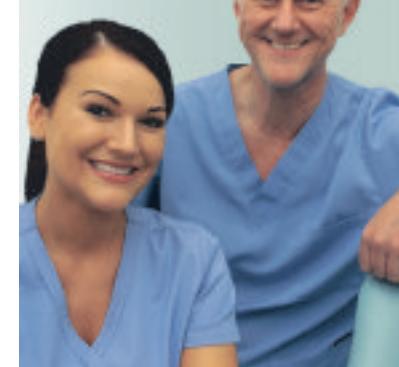
Royal icing on Christmas cake – too hard for some

Will it be a difficult denture Christmas?

The heralds of Christmas are all around us – lights, crowds of shoppers and the first flush of work's parties. For most people it all promises to be loads of fun, but for some who wear dentures, the seasonal frivolity is no laughing matter. Principal of the Denture Clinic and North Street Dental and Implant Clinic, STEVEN BURCHELL DipCDT RCS(Eng) GDC 108353, offers a timely message of hope

New dentures ready for Christmas
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Steven
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nurse, Lydia



- Simply not wanting to join in the celebrations; always having to find a reason to avoid socialising

- A life ruled by dentures that just don't work – especially where there's party food
- No longer able to enjoy your favourite foods
- Restricted diet and generally a poor nutritional intake on a daily basis

I once heard of a tragic case where a lady in her 80s had lived her whole adult life as a "consummate actress" because of failing false teeth.

She went out only to work, had no social life and rarely spoke to anyone.

She was deeply troubled by her dentures and the issues relating to them eclipsed her life.

A complex clinical case, I was privileged to help

transform her life for the better many years ago.

She learned to live again in the latter years, making new friends, going to restaurants and stopping for conversations in the street. Her regret – and mine too – that she just accepted her problem. Afraid of the dentist and fearful her appointment with me would disappoint, she suffered in silence.

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Her defining quote: "How I wish I could have done this years ago."

For those seeking something extra from their dentures we offer the ever-popular *Suction Solution Dentures* and a variety of *implant retained options* that guarantee an end to stability problems. Call us, please.

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Pretty Paxos offers haven of calm and relaxation

"LAKKACHATTA swinda lactu," says my six-year-old daughter Rosie, pencil poised on a notepad.

"Yasi," comes the reply from her sister Poppy, four, who's sat at the table. "Ikkii tabu."

It's a new game they've started playing since we landed in sunny Greece. They're being waitresses and making an effort to grasp the local language.

It's been 15 years since I last visited this country. Back then, it was all booze and bathing, but this time I'm here with my family, discovering a land more akin to the one Gerald Durrell wrote about in *My Family And Other Animals*, when he wished he could give everyone the gift of his wonderful childhood.

After flying into Corfu, we hop on the hydrofoil and bob across the ocean for an hour to pretty Paxos – the smallest of the Ionian Islands, and said to be similar to the Corfu Durrell adored as a child.

With winding roads, gorgeously green plants, an azur sea and villas dotting every corner of the three main villages, it's clear this is a part of the world that's made for exploring.

Our villa, Milou, is a grand affair – set off the beaten track at the top of a hill – with nothing surrounding but a handful of other properties.

The front door opens into an enormous games room, with a very cool, electric blue billiards table. We make downstairs our slumber zone, with a main bedroom leading out to the poolside, and a calming twin room, painted to match Greece's country colours of blue and white. The kitchen-dining area is spacious, white and welcoming, but we spend most of our days outside.

The infinity pool provides hours of entertainment for the kids – and Daddy, who loves nothing more than drenching them with a running dive-bomb. And the view, looking out towards the Pindus mountains, is enough to take the relaxation factor up a notch or two.

Mind you, there's a cackle of hysterics as the volume on the docking station reaches ear-piercing levels, belting out club classics in the blazing sunshine. I emerge from the pool to see my husband James throwing some serious shapes, shouting, 'Pool party', while our children giggle at his moves and attempt to join in.

We spend our days gorging on Greek salad with fat and furiously red tomatoes, crunchy cucumber, giant lumps of local feta cheese and lashings of olive oil and oregano. And come the evening, James lights the BBQ and cooks the most enormous sausages ever seen, pork and chicken kebabs, giant peppers, and what can only be described as a 'nine-bar' of halloumi, all bought in the local shops at Gaios, the island's capital, and beautiful Loggos, both just a few miles away. It's cheap too – we easily buy enough meat to feed us all, with masses of leftovers, for nine Euros at the old-fashioned butcher's.

A car is essential here. Even just getting supplies for the villa is tricky without wheels. And it means you can explore this beautiful, unspoilt island with ease.

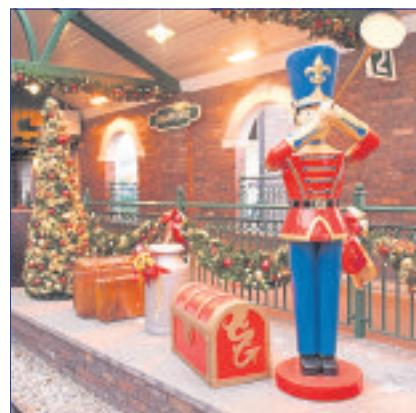
Measuring around a mere eight miles from one end to the other, Paxos doesn't take long to get around, though roads can be tricky to navigate. We easily get lost amid rural roads, while trying to avoid pedestrians, shush unbelievably excited children and translate Greek road signs. We pass giant pots planted up with cacti, aloe vera and lavender, watched over by gnarly old olive trees, as holey as honeycomb.

We drive past a school with signs warning us that children cross here, but there's no one to be seen. When compared with overcrowded Corfu, it seems crazy that so few make the extra journey to experience the peace of Paxos.

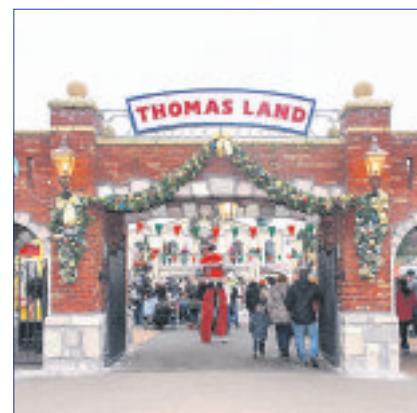
We find a craggy bit of headland near Lakka, Paxos' most northerly tip, where giant rocks peer over and stand tall from the sea. I investigate a growing green mass with bulbous, almost pod-like ends, that I'm certain must be edible. I look around to ask someone, but there isn't a soul to be seen – just the four of us, deserted on our own idyllic coastline.

"It's like a sunset in the sea," says Rosie, describing how the ocean changes from clear to turquoise, into azure and navy. And I smile, thinking Durrell would have been pleased with her description. When we return to England's less sunny shores, I ask if they'd like to holiday in Paxos again. "Yakka chakka!" comes the reply. I'll take that as a yes.

By Claire Spreadbury



Decorations and special displays throughout the park



All ready for Christmas at Thomas Land, Drayton Manor



Get into the festive spirit with Thomas and friends

Santa and 'snow' at magical theme park

WE'RE usually much later with our annual visit to Santa, squeezing it in the week before Christmas when present lists are finally finalised.

However, this year our family was invited to kick off the festive season early, with a visit to Drayton Manor Theme Park's Magical Christmas for a special preview.

It may still be November, but we're now well and truly full of the festive spirit after spending a delightful day with Santa and his reindeer, making presents for meerkats and being covered in 'snow'.

There was even ice-skating on the indoor Slide & Glide, which delighted eight-year-old Zoe. Although the larger park rides were closed, there was still enough to entertain children of all ages as well as the 'big kids'.

A highlight for us, with older children, was the Ben 10 Ultimate Mission Rollercoaster. With hardly any queues, it had plenty of use by the four of us. After that, and lunch, the more leisurely pace of the traditional Carousel was appreciated and we were treated to a fantastic 4D cinema experience with the Polar Express, a 15-minute adventure shown throughout the day.

Taking a walk around the zoo, the children were thrilled to see the meerkats and lemurs enjoying the 'presents' they had made for them at a mini workshop when we arrived. It was lovely to step inside the warmth of the reptile house where many people remarked that the animals appeared much more active than usual – maybe they were all excited by the special visitors from the North Pole. Santa's reindeer have pride of place at the entrance of the zoo, with their pen decorated with giant baubles. They looked like they were getting plenty of rest before their big job pulling the sleigh on Christmas Eve.

Drayton Manor visitors can see Santa at The Castle of Dreams and we eagerly arrived at our time slot to be greeted by two cheerful elves. Inside the castle, the decorations were beautiful and seeing Santa was

REVIEW

By Liz Gray

just as magical as we had hoped. George, 11, was lost for words as Santa told him to stop arguing with his sister, while Zoe couldn't stop grinning. With four weeks to go until Christmas, there could be another advantage to visiting Santa so early – if they both keep their promise to be good.

We spent the rest of the afternoon enjoying the rides in Thomas Land, with favourites including the Troublesome Trucks Runaway Rollercoaster and Bertie Bus. This part of the park has undergone a £2.5 million expansion and there is a new two-storey Sodor Airport complex with VIP suites available for private hire.

Thomas Land became a real winter wonderland with flurries of 'snow' throughout the day courtesy of a special machine and there were balcony shows where you could meet the characters. There was also plenty of festive music being played and, as it began to get dark, the Christmas lights created the perfect atmosphere. Plenty of pictures were taken by the giant Christmas tree and the day was rounded off with a parade and a dazzling fireworks display.

For us it was a great way to experience the theme park at a time of year we would not normally think of going. And we will be sure to return for the new season in 2017, as each child who visits Santa receives a golden ticket for a free visit.

Just an hour's drive from Shropshire, the park, near Tamworth, has a selection of packages available for the Christmas period for its four-star hotel. Ticket prices for Drayton's Magical Christmas including Santa start at £22 per adult and £17 for children and over 60s. Children aged 2-3 cost £12 and under twos are free. There is free entry to both serving and non-serving members of the armed forces. Drayton's Magical Christmas is open tomorrow (Friday) and Monday and from December 2-5, 9-12, 15-23 and 27-31. Visit www.draytonmanor.co.uk



Big smiles for Santa in The Castle of Dreams at Drayton Manor Theme Park

Unexpected tip-top destination has plenty of heritage



Pay a visit to Mad O'Rourke's Pie Factory

SPOTLIGHT ON TIPTON

Currency: Pork scratching. GBP is available in some outlets.

Brief overview: In honour of all things Steve Bull, we present to you our finest, most unique and undoubtedly our most unexpected holiday destination – Tipton. It has everything you could possibly need like boxing connections, great chip shops, more pork scratchings than anywhere else in the world, brilliant pubs and more. Viz Comic famously reported that Jesus was born in Tipton – ha, and here's all us fools imagining he was born in Jerusalem. Oh yes, and Tipton also lent its name to the brilliant Lazy Cow Doreen Tipton, who plans to ape American President Donald Trump by building

a wall around the Black Country to keep out illegal Brummies.

Where to stay: While Tipton doesn't have the same range of hotels as Tokyo or Paris, it offers a number of delightful B&Bs. Expect a full English for breakfast and change from £50.

What to do: The choices are endless. And no, we ay pullin' ya leg. Tipton is so steeped in history that it has its own Heritage Trail. Visit the Factory Locks, Victoria Park, Tipton Carnegie Centre – which is not to be confused with the Carnegie Hall in New York – or the Cast Iron Roving Bridges, over local canals. Then there's St John's Church and St Mark's Church, The Old Line Canal, Malthouse Stables, The Boat Gauging House and, best of all, The Tipton

Slasher statue near to The Fountain Inn. The Slasher, as all Tiptonians know, was a British heavyweight prize fighter in the 19th century and English champion from 1850-57. Alternatively, follow in the footsteps of Black Country legend Steve Bull, whose first school was Wednesbury Oak Primary and who then attended Willingsworth High, where he made a name. Tipton Town's stadium is opposite Wednesday Oak – and Asda's just up the road, so you can fill up on fuel if your car's running low.

What to eat/drink: Scratchings, a pint of Bathams and a bag of chips. Alternatively, pop into Mad O'Rourke's Pie Factory, the home of Desperate Dan's Cow Pie and the almost-legendary pint of Lumphammer.

Revellers enjoy a Cheeky night in one-off return

REVELLERS danced the night away as the legendary Cheeky Monkey club night returned to Wolverhampton Civic Hall. Hundreds packed out the dance floor in aid of the one-night only charity special for Compton Hospice.

Once a staple of city nightlife, the famous event featured music from all eras including 70s disco, 80s pop, rock, indie, punk and ska, alongside an eclectic mix of floor fillers.

All three of the original Cheeky Monkey DJs – Marie Falahie, Carrie Weeks and Mel Lewis – got back together for the first time in more than a decade to help raise funds for a charity during the night reunion.

Returns

Partygoer Estelle Perry, aged 39, from Cannock, said: "It was a great night. I went along with two of my old friends from about 15 years ago, Sonia and Charlie. It was for a great cause at the same time and I really hope they do something similar in the future."

Cheeky Monkey has made a couple of fleeting returns in recent years as part of New Year's Eve events at the Wulfrun Hall. It was announced earlier this year that promoter Dave Travis would be joining forces with the hospice to resurrect the classic club night.

Compton Hospice spokesperson Grace Lee said: "Cheeky Monkey has been missing from Wolverhampton nightlife for over four years. Anyone who has ever attended will tell you what a great time they had."

Angry father commits first ever crime on island

A FATHER from Dudley has become the first person ever to commit a crime on a tiny holy island off the Welsh coast.

The 45-year-old holidaymaker was seen disciplining his 'misbehaving' seven-year-old son at a chocolate factory on Caldey Island, near the popular holiday resort of Tenby, a court in Haverfordwest was told.

The father was seen shouting at the boy before lifting him up by the throat and slapping him on the head, magistrates heard. The father, who cannot be named for legal reasons, admitted assaulting his son after witnesses called the police.

Just 40 monks live on the mile-and-a-half-long island, which is off the Pembrokeshire coast. It is so remote that police had to be carried by lifeboat the two miles to the island to make the arrest. The incident was revealed when the arrested holidaymaker appeared in court on the mainland.

The holy island has a monastery for 18 Cistercian monks and a handful of

By David Banner

farmers – but with no criminal activity in living memory. But for the first time in September it recorded a single crime of violence, which led to the Black Country father appearing before Haverfordwest Magistrates Court, where he admitted assault.

Mr Dennis Davies, prosecuting, said other shocked visitors told police how the incident took place as they stood outside the chocolate factory on the island, which attracts boat loads of tourists.

Shouting

He said: "The man was said to be shouting at the boy before lifting him up with an outstretched arm by the throat, before putting him down, slapping him on the back of the head and frog marching him away."

The court heard a visitor shouted 'that's child abuse,' at the father. Police were called to the island to arrest the 45-year-old.

He told police his son was 'being naughty and wouldn't listen' – and almost fell down some steps.

Mr Davies said: "He told police that in no way did he intend to hurt him but accepted that he had been unreasonable. He explained that his son had ADHD and was on the autistic spectrum."

Mr Mike Kelleher, defending, said: "The boy doesn't like crowds and queuing, and doesn't see danger as others do."

"The father said his son was misbehaving and running up and down the steps, and he was concerned he would hurt himself or others. The father is deeply upset and didn't want to hurt his son."

The man was released on bail while reports are prepared.

Before the assault, official crime statistics have recorded a zero for Caldey Island for anti-social behaviour, theft, burglary, arson, drugs, public order, vehicle crime, robbery and possession of offensive weapons.

The island, which has a population of 40, has had a monastery for more than 1,500 years. The monks observe a vow of silence between 7pm and 7am, outside usual hours tourists can reach the island. The monks were described as being concerned by the assault.

200 officers to be taken on to tackle cyber crime menace

WEST Midlands Police will take on 200 officers to tackle cyber crime. The recruits will be in addition to 800 new officers set to join the force by 2020.

Police and Crime Commissioner David Jamieson has made tackling cyber crime one of his key priorities over the next four years as part of his police and crime plan.

Mr Jamieson said cyber crime, such as fraud and terrorism, was one of the biggest challenges facing the force today. Increasing reports of 'hidden crimes', such as domestic violence and child sexual exploitation, and greater support for victims are also key targets.

Mr Jamieson said: "This plan will make sure we crack down on traditional crimes and continue to protect the public from threats like cyber crime, child sexual exploitation and domestic abuse. The recruitment of 200 specialist staff will enable that."

Roles

At the end of August, the force announced it would take on more than 1,100 new police officers, PCSOs and other staff in its biggest recruitment drive for six years.

The force, which has lost nearly one fifth of its officers since Home Office police cuts started in 2010, said it would take on 1,150 new starters over the next three years.

The posts include 800 new PCs, 200 specialist staff in a range of roles, such as investigators, and 150 PCSOs.

The force, which has lost nearly one fifth of its officers since Home Office police cuts started in 2010, will take on 1,150 new starters over the next three years. From September 2009 up until September 2015 WMP's workforce has reduced from 8,694 to 7,043 – a cut of 1,651 staff.



Deceived encourages drivers to report potential crime involving vulnerable youngsters

Taxi drivers' DVD targets child sexual exploitation

TAXI drivers are attempting to stamp out child sexual exploitation by creating a video highlighting the first signs of danger.

The video, called Deceived, aims to educate drivers and make them aware if they are carrying any vulnerable passengers, and to encourage them to report any possible crime.

Shaz Saleem, chairman of Dudley Private Hire and Taxi Association, wrote, produced and directed the piece with the help of fellow drivers. He said: "This is by far the most important piece of work the association has done."

"Recently, we signed a pledge to tackle this crime but we want our actions to speak louder. The association is committed to ensuring the safety of our customers and we will not shy away from our role."

"Personally I want to thank everyone

who has supported Deceived, from the cast to those who have advised and guided us throughout."

Music was created by Falcon Taxis driver, Waqas Rizwan, with the role of the driver played by Amran Hussain from Express Taxis in Halesowen. Lucy is played by Rianna Edwards.

Earlier this year the association created a video to make customers aware of the difference between a private hire car and Hackney cab as part of its Be Safe campaign.

West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner, David Jamieson, said: "The only way to tackle hidden crimes is to bring them out of the darkness into the light and confront them head on."

● Visit www.expressandstar.com to see the video



In the video Deceived the role of the lead character 'Lucy' is played by Rianna Edwards

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The fun Marquee collection available at Debenhams



Good lighting is achieved by creating different layers of light



Acropolis table lamp, £20.70, available from Very

Let there be light!



Go for a more modern approach in the kitchen



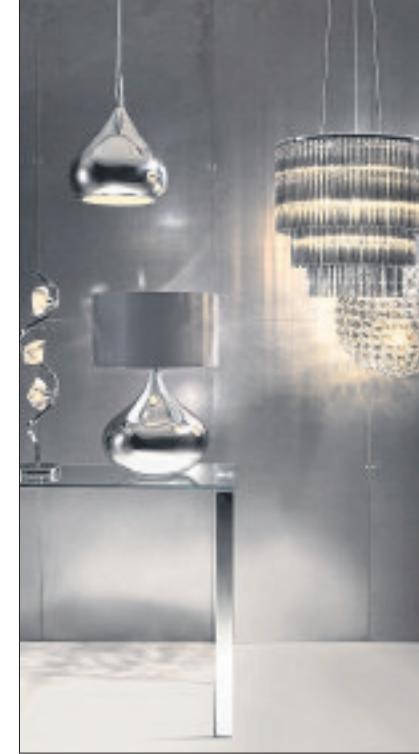
Create the right ambience with softer lighting, using more than one light source



Scarlett black chandelier, £316, from Debenhams



Loft table lamp and floor lamp, Marks and Spencer



A good scheme allows you to instantly reinvent a space

WINTER may be bleak and dark, but it's the perfect time to switch on to the power of lighting and illuminate rooms with everything, from razzle-dazzle new effects to simple bulbs which shine a spotlight on a feature, or even change a mood.

"Lighting really matters in a home and can literally transform it," promises George Clarke, architect and TV's popular property presenter of George Clarke's Amazing Spaces and The Restoration Man.

"I've seen great buildings ruined by bad lighting schemes, and great lighting improve bad buildings. It can truly make that much difference."

"What's fantastic these days, is that there are affordable, effective ways of personally tailoring lighting schemes, using technology like smart phones and tablets, which a decade ago, would have costs thousands."

Clarke, who's currently working with Philips lighting, believes good lighting doesn't just have a visual effect, but can also help improve our wellbeing.

"Artificial light can now mimic natural light and light systems can be programmed to suit our body rhythms."

"Replicating a soothing sunset glow in the

By Gabrielle Fagan

evening can help people relax and encourage relaxation and sleep, while gradually increasing light levels in the morning to mimic sunrise can encourage us to wake in a more gentle fashion.

"Lights conjuring the effect of natural sunlight indoors may offset the negative effect of a grey day outside. There's almost no limit to what can be achieved."

Brightness

Recent research by B&Q revealed that 85% of us have no idea which bulb brightness is best to suit a task or set a mood. Clarke gives his guide to LED lighting...

"In general, people are scared by lighting and confused by all the terminology."

"That's a real shame because LED lighting is so versatile these days. For instance, there's a misconception that it's a cold light, but the key to success is selecting the right colour temperature of the bulb, which is measured in a unit called a kelvin (K)," he explains. "Bulbs with higher kelvin value create a cooler, crisp white light (4000K) which are suitable for practical areas like kitchen or bathroom, while those with a lower kelvin value (3000K) produce a warmer white light more appropriate for living rooms."

"Artificial light can now mimic natural light and light systems can be programmed to suit our body rhythms."

If you want to easily change the ambience, there are innovations like a Philips Scene Switch LED light bulb (£9.99, Amazon) which allows you to use your light switch to flick between three different light levels, from bright to natural or a soft warm light. This bulb can be used on an existing light [simply using your normal light switch to change between settings] and removes the need for a dimmer."

LIGHT TOUCH

"A common mistake people make is only having light coming from one source – for instance, simply having a ceiling light. In reality, good lighting is achieved by creating different layers of light which conjure variation, texture and atmosphere," says Clarke. "Clever accent lighting – wall sconces, floodlights, recessed lights or track lighting – can dramatically change a space and highlight key areas or architectural features. Even just hanging an adjustable pendant light over a dining table will define the space and make it feel more intimate. Coloured lighting is also a fantastic way to add a 'wow' factor, especially if the light source is hidden. Use coloured light strips above kitchen units, but, to get the maximum effect, keep the background a neutral white as a contrast."

SEE THE LIGHTS: Nothing makes more of a statement than an intricately designed chandelier and, for a modern approach, fit one in an unexpected place like a kitchen or a bed-room. Debenhams has an impressive lighting

collection with the added bonus that many pieces are currently reduced online. A Scarlett Black Chandelier, with smoke and clear glass crystal strands, is reduced from £395 to £316, and a Penelope Pendant Ceiling Light, featuring layers of smoke glass cylinders, reduced from £320 to £256. Cluster lights are ultra-fashionable and its contemporary Harrison Cluster Ceiling Light is down from £150 to £120.

Very's Glass Cloche Ceiling Light, £99, blends modern with traditional style, with a clear glass dome showcasing a cluster of light strings, and another winner in its collection is a Forest Pendant with etched tree design, £19.

Dar Lighting, which has nationwide stockists, has super pendant lights and I particularly like its Tower Cluster Pendant, RRP £118.80. Pared-back designs allow materials to shine and B&Q's Jonas Wire Copper Pendant Ceiling Light, £47, is a good example of that approach. Urban Cottage Industries, specialists in vintage and industrial lighting, which offers bespoke lights, has a funky Green Large Balloon Light Bulb Cage, from £55.44. Experiment with coloured light with a Philips Hue LED Iris Light Colour Changing Mood Smart Lamp, £70, B&Q.

TRICK OF THE LIGHT

"Lighting should be flexible, so you can zone different areas and alter light levels to change mood, atmosphere or focus it to better suit a

specific activity," says Clarke. "A good scheme allows you to instantly reinvent a space – or, in increasingly popular open-plan living rooms, the areas within the space – without having to change a room's overall layout."

"There are so many ways to draw the eye. Bare bulbs are very much on-trend, as are metallic finishes and sculptural shapes. Table lights are a really good way to partition areas in a room, so a light on a side table behind a sofa will create a visual break in an open plan room."

"Do bear in mind colours and surfaces reflect and absorb light in different ways. Shiny materials like satin, silk and metal bounce light around a room, whereas darker, denser materials, such as wool and velvet, soak up light."

SEE THE LIGHTS: Show off your style credentials with lights inspired by the gaudy stars of the fairground. The fun Marquee collection at Debenhams has a selection: Flamingo Light, £150; Burst Star and Rainbow Floor Lights, both currently reduced online from £150 to £120; Lightening Bolt Floor Light, down from £95 to £76, and Cactus Floor Light, currently reduced from £125 to £100.

Laura Ashley's Odham Antique Brass Desk Lamp, currently £87.50, down from £125, is a classic and its matching Sphere Pendant Light is £122.50. Adjustable lights are super-useful and Marks & Spencer's Loft Adjustable Task Floor Lamp, £99, has a matching Table Lamp, £45.

Christmas kicks off with festival at cone

CHRISTMAS has arrived at a popular attraction in the Black Country which held a two day festival showcasing arts and crafts.

Visitors flocked to the Red House Glass Cone, at Wordsley, for the festive event at the weekend.

The newly opened White House Cone also joined in and hosted a num-

ber of craft stalls at its site across the road from the Red House Glass Cone.

As well as a craft market, visitors also had the chance to attend a teenage market, visit studios and the gift shop and watch glassmaking sessions.

There was also a Walking in a Winter Wonderland exhibition at the attraction, featuring work by local

artists. "Everyone enjoyed the festival and it was a welcome start to Christmas," said Sarah Hall, visitor services manager at the glass cone.

Santa will be visiting the cone on December 10 and 11, and 17 to 23 from 10am until 3.30pm. Book a visit on (01384) 812381 or 815571, £7.90 per child.

Teenage motorist is sent to jail after he used car as a weapon

Patients' records destroyed



The fire destroyed industrial units in Wolverhampton, including an archive

HUNDREDS of patients' medical records have been destroyed following an arson attack at an archives site, it has been revealed.

The 'unprecedented event' is now being investigated by Dudley Clinical Commissioning Group, Clinical Governance and West Midlands Fire Service.

Historical paper data from Felton Lane surgery in Halesowen was destroyed in the fire that saw four industrial units in Wolverhampton gutted on October 20.

In a letter sent to patients, it was stated that 'records were transferred to the site on the Clearwater Industrial Estate, on Ettingshall Road, in 2015. Those premises were been destroyed by a major fire with 'total loss of all historical paper data'.

Caroline Brunt, chief nurse at Dudley CCG, said: "The loss of Felton Lane Practice patient records in the recent fire has been reported as a serious incident and managed appropriately by the surgery staff."

"The protection of a patient's record is taken very seriously, however, we recognise that unpredictable events happen. Any losses of records are investigated to learn lessons."

Body cams for 999 medics are considered after attacks increase

AMBULANCE chiefs are considering whether to provide staff with body cameras after the number of attacks on paramedics in the Black Country and Staffordshire surged in the past six months.

A report by the West Midlands Ambulance Service revealed there were 57 assaults on staff in the Black Country and 35 in Staffordshire in the six months from April to September.

This compared to 89 in the Black Country and 29 in Staffordshire across the whole of the previous year.

In 2014/15, there were 70 assaults in the Black Country and 29 in Staffordshire.

It shows the number of attacks for the six-month period have risen

to almost the level which had previously been seen in a whole year.

The figures also showed the attackers made no distinction between male and female medics. In fact, in the Black Country more female staff were attacked than their male colleagues during the six-month period.

A total of 29 women were assaulted, one more than the number of men.

In October, an ambulance on a 999 call was targeted by yobs who hurled food at the windscreen from a West Bromwich bridge.

That came after two paramedics were allegedly threatened inside an ambulance in July as they responded to a call in Portobello, Walsall.

A TEENAGER banned from driving deliberately crashed into a stationary car in Quinton, knocking over the motorist who had just got out.

The road rage incident came just five days after Shakeel Janjua, from Netherton, stole a car at gunpoint.

Janjua has been locked up for five years, following his appearance at Wolverhampton Crown Court.

Janjua careered into the parked Vauxhall Insignia sending sales manager Ivan Trebinski, 61, flying. Mr Trebinski had tailed the 19-year-old from Halesowen High Street to Clydesdale Road in Quinton, after he had been cut up by an Astra driven by Janjua on July 2 last year.

Mr Paul Spratt, prosecuting, told the court: "Mr Trebinski was about to walk over to remonstrate over the driving of the other motorist after both cars stopped when the Astra suddenly sped away."

The victim told police: "It was driven directly at me, hitting the front of my vehicle." He was standing alongside the Insignia and was knocked down as a result of the collision.

Injured

Janjua drove off leaving the dazed sales manager with an injured shoulder before causing £500 damage to a Renault Clio when he crashed into it at a nearby traffic island.

The defendant had stolen a £1,500 Seat Leon on June 27, which was being sold by Faizal Mahmood at Bordesley Green. He had threatened Mr Mahmood with a gun, later accepted as an imitation firearm, telling him he would be shot if he tried to stop the vehicle being taken during a viewing. The Seat Leon was dumped soon afterwards after an accident.

Janjua was arrested on July 3 and bailed pending further inquiries but on May 29 this year was seen speeding in a stolen Vauxhall Meriva on false plates after it was stolen in a car key burglary five days earlier.

The defendant twice smashed into a pursuing police car in a bid to escape after racing along the Hagley Road in Quinton at almost three times the 30mph limit shortly before 2am. He also went through red lights and drove the wrong way round a traffic island before the front tyre came off and, going at 30mph, he hurtled into a second police car that was blocking the road.

Janjua ran off but was caught while attempting to climb a fence. He had two bags of cannabis and a knife on his person.

Mr Gurudeep Garcha, defending, said: "He has foolishly made some very grave mistakes."

Janjua from Knowle Hill Road, pleaded guilty to robbery, possession of an imitation firearm, assault, dangerous driving and possession of both cannabis and a knife.

He was jailed by Judge Nicholas Webb who told him: "You used a vehicle as a weapon but fortunately no serious injury was caused."

A POET is to be guest speaker at history group's annual general meeting next meeting.

Black Country humorist David Bartley is to appear at Stourbridge Historical Society's AGM on Thursday, December 8.

The meeting will be in the Walsall Room, at Stourbridge Town Hall, starting from 7.30pm.

Each year Stourbridge Historical Society organises a series of talks and other activities. New members and visitors are welcome. See stourbridgehistoricalsociety.com

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fast theticket

Stand-up guys

James are
back – Page 27



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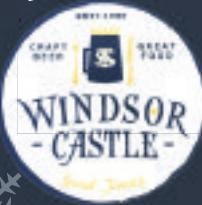
See Page 27

For full listings see **Express & Star** every Friday

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theticket

Roy Wood

Thursday, 8pm
Robin 2, Bilston
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 See therobin.co.uk

ROCK & METAL

The Subterraneans
 Tonight - tomorrow,
 The Jam House, Birmingham, B3 1QU.
 Call 0121 200 3030

Fleetwood Bac – The Fleetwood Mac Tribute Show
 Tonight, £8 - £10
 The RoadHouse Birmingham,
 Kings Norton, B30 3DZ.
 Call 0121 246 2273

Into The Shadows
 Tonight, £12.50
 Huntingdon Hall, CrownGate Shopping Centre, Worcester,
 WR1 3LD.
 Call 01905 611427

Gordon Hendricks – The Ultimate Elvis Tribute
 Tonight - Sun, £22.50
 Theatre on the Steps, Bridgnorth,
 WV16 4BD.
 Call 01746 766477

The Beat
 Tomorrow,
 The Slade Rooms,
 Wolverhampton, WV1 1HP.
 Call 01902 552122

Darkside performing The Pink Floyd...
 Tomorrow,
 Wulfrun Hall, Wolverhampton,
 WV1 1RD.
 Call 01902 552122

The Born Again Beatles + support
 Tomorrow, £6 - £7
 The RoadHouse Birmingham,
 Kings Norton, B30 3DZ.
 Call 0121 246 2273

From The Jam performing 'The History of The Jam's Singles including B Sides'
 Tomorrow, £20 - £22.50
 The Robin 2, Bilston,
 WV14 7LJ.
 Call 01902 401211

The Smyths – The Songs That Saved Your Life Tour
 Tomorrow,
 O2 Academy Birmingham,
 B1 1DB.
 Call 0121 622 8250

Eliza and the Bear
 Sun,
 O2 Academy Birmingham,
 B1 1DB.
 Call 0121 622 8250

Against Me!
 Tue,
 O2 Academy Birmingham,
 B1 1DB.
 Call 0121 622 8250

Bullet For My Valentine
 Tue - Wed,
 O2 Academy Birmingham,
 B1 1DB.
 Call 0121 622 8250

CLASSICAL

Festive Nights at Drayton Manor Hotel
 Tonight - Thu,
 Drayton Manor,
 Fazeley,
 Tamworth,
 B78 3TW.
 Call 0844 472 1950

Kate Tempest

Sunday, 7pm
O2 Institute 2, Birmingham
 The forthright poet and rapper, who recently released her second album Let Them Eat Chaos, brings tales of desperation from the streets of London. See academymusicgroup.com/o2institutebirmingham

Primal Scream

Sunday, 7pm
O2 Institute, Birmingham
 The venue will be taken to a funky-electro-psych meltdown with Glaswegian rock god Bobby Gillespie (pictured) still at the helm after 34 years. See academymusicgroup.com/o2institutebirmingham

Josh Widdicombe

Thursday, 7pm
Civic Hall, Wolverhampton
 'What Do I Do' asks the Devonian comedian following his most successful year to date, starring in his own TV sit-com Josh and as a regular on Channel 4 show The Last Leg. See wolvscivic.co.uk

War Artists Lecture Series

Tomorrow,
 The Barber Institute of Fine Arts,
 University of Birmingham,
 Edgbaston, B15 2TS.
 Call 0121 414 7333

Christmas Food & Craft Fayre

Tomorrow,
 Weston Park,
 Weston-under-Lizard,
 Shifnal, TF11 8LE.
 Call 01952 852100

Seasonal markets

Tomorrow,
 Croome, High Green, Worcester,
 WR8 9DW.
 Call 01905 371006

Sleeping Beauty – The Pantomime of Dreams

Tomorrow,
 Lichfield Garrick, WS13 6HR.
 Call 01543 412121

Cellar Tour

Tomorrow,
 Erasmus Darwin House, Lichfield,
 WS13 7AD.
 Call 01543 306260

Christmas crafts

Tomorrow,
 Croome, High Green, Worcester,
 WR8 9DW.
 Call 01905 371006

Christmas Celebrations

Tomorrow,
 Museum of the Jewellery Quarter,
 Birmingham, B18 6HA.
 Call 0121 554 3598

A Night of Miracles

Tomorrow,
 Stourbridge Town Hall, DY8 1YE.
 Call 01384 812960

Ludlow Orchestra

Tomorrow,
 Ludlow Assembly Rooms, SY8 1AZ.
 Call 01584 878141

Ex Cathedra: Christmas Music by Candlelight

Tomorrow,
 St Peter's Collegiate Church,
 Wolverhampton, WV1 1TY.
 Call 01902 422642

Sunday Classics

Sun,
 Spotted Dog,
 Digbeth,
 Birmingham,
 B12 0NH.
 Call 0121 772 3822

Christmas Creations

Sun, £4 - £6
 RBFA Gallery,
 Birmingham,
 B3 1SA.
 Call 0121 236 4353

Reindeer Mask Decorating

Sun,
 Creative Coffee Hub,
 Birmingham,
 B29 6HJ.
 Call 0121 5727300

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Check out full listings in **theticket** in Friday's Express & Star

Sit Down and get up for James gig



Tim Booth, centre, as James play one of the festival dates that have made them perennial British rock scene favourites

MANCHESTER indie rock heroes James are in concert at Wolverhampton Civic Hall on Wednesday, following their most successful year since the band reunited in 2007.

The festival favourites fronted by Tim Booth, who first got together in 1982, have won a loyal legion of fans with such rock anthems as Sit Down, Come Home, Sound and She's A Star,

The band's latest album, *Girl At The End Of The World*, went straight into the UK album charts at no2, second only to Adele.

Glastonbury

In a career yielding 14 studio albums, the group has sold more than 12 millions albums worldwide and have become regulars on the festival

circuit, including V and this year's Glastonbury.

Yorkshire-born frontman Booth, a former Shrewsbury School pupil, is now based in California. "We moved here to take some of that Californian laid back optimism," says Booth. "It's starting to seep in. It takes a while to get over the more wired English edginess that is still probably with us."

Encore for Roachford

ANDREW Roachford arrived on the UK music scene in the late 1980s with the hits Cuddly Toy and Family Man as the linchpin of the band that carried his surname.

Raised in south London to West Indian parents, he was born into a musical family and first hit the road at the age of 14 gigging with his jazz saxophonist uncle Bill Roachford.

"I was in the middle of that whole jazz scene which was an interesting education," he says. "It taught me musically, how to listen and how to entertain. My uncle always told me that you had to give people a show."

Signed to a seven-album deal with Columbia Records, Roachford went on to become that record label's biggest selling domestic act for more than ten years.

Andrew Roachford also became an in-demand songwriter for such as Michael Jackson and Chaka Khan.

Recent years have seen him writing and singing on top selling dance tracks and touring with Mike And The Mechanics.

"I'm always pushing myself as an artist," he says. "When it comes to songwriting, I naturally gravitate to digging deep. That's how it works for me."

His latest album, Encore, was released in the summer and his latest single was a funk-ed up version of Bill Withers soul classic Ain't No Sunshine.

Roachford is in concert at Bilston's Robin 2 venue on Tuesday. Support comes from Birmingham singer-songwriter Rosie O'Sullivan.

'I'm always pushing myself as an artist'



Civic in comedy heroes hat-trick

IT'S a big week for comedy with Catherine Tate following up her show at the Barclaycard Arena last night (Wednesday) by bringing such characters as Nan Taylor, Geordie Georgie and, if she can be bovered, sulky teenager Lauren Cooper to Wolverhampton Civic Hall tomorrow (Friday). She will be assisted by Gavin & Stacey actor Mathew Horne.

Gag-machine Jimmy Carr brings his 'Best of, Ultimate, Gold, Greatest Hits Tour' to the Civic for consecutive nights on Saturday and Sunday. The Last Leg regular Josh Widdicombe completes a comedy hat-trick for the Civic on December 8.

Keep Dancing with Louis and Robin

STRICTLY speaking it's not officially endorsed by a certain Beeb ballroom blockbuster, but fans of fancy movers may well enjoy Keep On Dancing at New Alexandra Theatre from Tuesday to Saturday, December 10.

The Birmingham venue hosts a latin and ballroom dancing spectacular featuring 2012 Strictly Come Dancing winner and Olympic gymnast Louis Smith. Among the professional dancers is former Strictly favourite Robin Windsor.

With guest singers between the jives, tangos and salsas, the show is from the same team behind hit shows Spirit Of The Dance and Puttin' On The Ritz.

Jam packed with hits at the Robin

MORE than a tribute band, From The Jam featuring original Jam bassist Bruce Foxton will play all his former band's singles, including B sides, at the Robin 2 in Bilston on Saturday night.

Other key gigs include Brum shoegazers Jaws back home in Digbeth at the Rainbow Warehouse tomorrow (Friday).

Heavy metal outfit Bullet for My Valentine focus on new album Venom at the O2 Academy, Birmingham, on Tuesday, returning the following night to perform 2005 album The Poison. Influential rockers Pixies have sold out O2 Academy on Thursday, December 8.

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CHOICE

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00 Saturday Kitchen Live.** **11.30 James Martin Home Comforts.** **12.00 Football Focus.** **1.00 BBC News:** Weather. **1.15 Live Snooker:** UK Championship. **4.30 Final Score.** **5.25 Celebrity Mastermind.** (R) **5.35 BBC News.**

6.05 Regional Programme.

6.10 Pointless Celebrities. Soap stars Joe Swash and John Altman, Nick Pickard and Ali Bastian, Victoria Bush and Zaraah Abrahams, and Sharon Maughan and Tina Hobley take part in the quiz show. (R)

7.00 Strictly Come Dancing. The five remaining couples bring a taste of Broadway to the studio, as Michael Ward and the ballroom's best lyrical extravaganza gets underway as the presenters and judges join the contestants on the dance-floor for a big opening number. However, the more pressing matter of this week's competitive performances quickly overtakes proceedings, as the pro-celebrity duos seek to dazzle judges Len Goodman, Darcey Bussell, Craig Revel Horwood and Bruno Tonioli with routines from hit shows. With the final looming ever closer, the pressure is on. As always, once the dances are complete, voting lines will open, giving members of the public a chance to have their say on this evening's performances.

8.00 Michael McIntyre's Big Show. Michael invites Sarah Millican to take to the stage, and singer-songwriter Tom Odell also performs. Plus, Westlife's Shane Filan spring a surprise on this week's Unexpected Star.

9.00 Casualty. Ethan struggles to bury his feelings for Alicia, as she and Cal become increasingly intimate, while Charlie and Duffy announce their relationship.

9.50 The National Lottery Live. Gaby Roslin presents the all-important winning numbers.

10.00 BBC News: Weather.

10.20 Match of the Day. Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League games; National Lottery Update.

11.45 The NFL Show. Mark Chapman looks at the major stories shaping the NFL world.

12.15 Film: Dragonfly. (2002) **1.55 Weather for the Week Ahead.** **2.00 BBC News.**

BBC2

6.00 Film: Mighty Joe Young. (1949) **7.30 Film:** Ray Harryhausen: Special Effects Titan. (2011) **9.00 Natural World:** Chimps of the Lost Gorge. (R) **10.00 Secret Britain.** (R) **11.00 Homes Under the Hammer.** (R) **12.00 House Prices Ever.** (R) **12.30 Hot Bikers: Best of British.** (R) **1.30 Film:** Rebeccah. (1940) Romantic thriller, with Laurence Olivier and Joanne Fontaine. **3.35 Flop It!** **4.30 Live Snooker:** UK Championships.

6.00 International Rugby Union.

England v Australia. John Inverdale presents highlights from Twickenham, where the autumn international schedule was completed with this match against the touring Wallabies. England coach Eddie Jones picked the uncapped Sale full-back Mike Haley, Saracens fly-half Alex Lozowski, Bath lock Charlie Ewels, Harlequins prop Kyle Sinckler, and Worcester centre Ben Te'o for this series. Northampton flanker Tom Wood also returned to the squad amid an injury crisis in the back row, with Gloucester pair Ben Morgan and Jonny May, alongside Bath second row Dave Attwood, also coming back into the fold. Commentary by Andrew Cotter and Brian Moore.

7.00 Live Snooker: UK Championship.

Coverage of the second semi-final on the 11th day at the Barbican Centre in York, as the prestigious ranking tournament resumes. At this stage of last year's event, Neil Robertson produced an outstanding performance to whitewash Mark Selby, as he progressed to the showpiece match with a 6-0 victory.

Presented by Hazel Irvine, with a commentary team that includes Steve Davis, Ken Doherty, Stephen Hendry, John Parrott, Dennis Taylor, and John Virgo.

Subsequent programmes are subject to change.

10.00 Mock the Week.

James Acaster, Rob Beckett, Ed Gamble, Sara Pascoe and John Robins join host Dara Ó Briain and regular Hugh Dennis. (R)

10.30 Film: The Dresser.

Drama based on Ronald Harwood's successful play, about an ageing actor and his personal assistant. Starring Anthony Hopkins. (R)

12.15 Film: Ill Manors. (2012) **2.10 This Is BBC Two.**

ITV

6.00 CITV: Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.10 Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids.** (R) **6.20 Dino Dan:** Treks' Adventures. (R) **6.35 Signed Stories:** Edward a Story. (R) **6.45 Dumbbirds Are Go.** (R) **6.50 Super Sleuth.** (R) **7.45 Oddheads.** (R) **7.25 Scrambled!:** Scrambled. (R) **7.30 Scrambled!: Nerds & Monsters.** (R) **7.50 Scrambled!: Looped.** (R) **8.05 Scrambled!: Adventure Time.** (R) **9.25 ITV News.**

9.30 Film: Carry On Girls. (1973) **11.10 All Star Family Fortunes.** (R) **11.55 ITV News:** Weather. **12.05 Judge Rinder.** (R)

1.05 Cash Trapped. (R) **2.05 Film:** St Trinian's. (2007) Comedy, starring Rupert Everett. **4.00 Thunderbirds Are Go.** **4.20 The Chase.** (R) **5.25 Regional Programme:** Weather. **5.40 ITV News:** Weather.

6.00 Tipping Point: Lucky Stars. Ben Shephard presents the celebrity quiz, in which contestants Harry Redknapp, Denise Van Outen and Audley Harrison answer questions to win turns on an arcade-style machine. Last in the series.

7.00 Meet the Parents. Manchester's Olivia Davidson-Slack, and Will Oakley from Southampton interview the families of potential sweethearts in the unorthodox dating show. Last in the series.

8.00 The X Factor. The tensile reaches fever pitch as the semi-finals arrive. The remaining acts are once again called to perform in front of judges Louis Walsh, Sharon Osbourne, Nicole Scherzinger and Simon Cowell.

Each of the live show rounds to date could have resulted in any of today's semi-finalists leaving the competition, and it's that wealth of experience each of the competitors will be hoping to draw upon as they tackle their most meaningful challenge to date.

9.30 I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here! Ant and Dec present the celebrity challenge, as the famous faces' ordeal in the Australian jungle draws tantalisingly close to its conclusion.

10.35 ITV News: Weather.

10.50 Film: 10,000 BC. (2008) A young mammoth-hunter crosses the wilderness to rescue his lover and fellow villagers from slave raiders. Prehistoric fantasy adventure, starring Steven Strait.

12.45 Jackpot247. **3.00 ITV Nightscreen.**

CHANNEL 4

6.10 Gillette World Sport. **6.35 Everybody Loves Raymond.** (R) **7.00 Everybody Loves Raymond.** (R) **7.30 Frasier.** (R) **7.55 Frasier.** (R) **8.25 Frasier.** (R) **9.00 The Morning Show.** **10.00 The Big Bang Theory.** (R) **10.30 The Big Bang Theory.** (R) **10.55 The Simpsons.** (R) **11.25 The Simpsons.** (R) **11.55 The Simpsons.** (R) **12.30 Deal or No Deal.** **1.25 Channel 4 Racing.** **4.00 Jamie's Super Food.** (R) **4.30 Location, Location, Location.** (R) **5.35 A Place in the Sun:** Winter Sun.

6.30 Channel 4 News.

7.00 China: Between Clouds and Dreams. The documentary exploring the private side of life in China concludes, as novice monk Gama begins his studies at the country's largest Tibetan monastery. Wumingsi is home to 20,000 monks and nuns, and Gama befriends one who is dedicated to saving the rare snow leopard. In central China, reporter Xu leads a band of volunteers in a desperate struggle against "electro-fishing", which involves the mass killing of fish using electricity. However, Xu's struggle results in a humiliating personal attack against him by a People's Daily. Meanwhile, in Beijing, four young journalists eagerly await the results of a national competition. Last in the series.

8.00 Britain at Low Tide. Tori Hirdinge and Alex Langlands visit Essex to investigate the earthworks remains of a Tudor fort, and spot a German U-boat stranded in a creek. Last in the series.

9.00 Film: Now You See Me. (2013) Four magicians use their lavish stage shows as cover for a series of seemingly impossible heists, and give away the money they've stolen to their audiences. An FBI agent assembles a team of experts to discover how the baffling robberies are committed and what the secret agenda behind the crime spree is. Crime thriller, starring Jesse Eisenberg.

11.15 Film: GI Joe: Retaliation. (2013) An elite military team battles a terrorist organisation that has replaced the US president with an imposter. Action adventure sequel, with Dwayne Johnson.

1.20 Hollyoaks. (R) **3.25 Location, Location, Location.** (R) **4.20 George Clarke's Amazing Spaces.** (R) **5.15 Kirstie and Phil's Love It or List It.** (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **9.50 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles.** (R) **10.25 The Gadget Show.** (R) **10.25 Film:** This Christmas. (2007) **1.35 Film:** A Fairytale Christmas. (2013) Romantic drama, starring C Thomas Howell and Hallie Elizabeth Newton. **2.00 Film:** A Belle in Christmas. (2014) Premiere. Family adventure, starring Dean Cain. **5.10 Film:** Mrs Miracle. (2009) Family drama, starring Doris Roberts.

7.05 NCIS. Three similar execution-style killings take place, and the team discovers one of the victims was going through a messy divorce. His widow falls under suspicion of committing the first two crimes to mask the murder of her husband—but, unfortunately for the agents, she has an alibi. Starring Michael Weatherly. (R)

8.00 NCIS: New Orleans. The team's efforts to track down 900lbs of stolen explosives are stalled when a bomb goes off in the city. The amount used still leaves the unknown terrorists with enough high explosive to level a large portion of the city. When Russo reveals Homeland Security knew the attack was orchestrated by a gang of South African mercenaries, Brody is forced to question what her new lover's real agenda might be. The situation becomes even more awkward when it becomes clear Russo has been involved in a string of cases that resulted in mysterious fatalities. While Pride and Sonja head out in search of the remaining explosives, Brody works together with Patton and Sebastian to investigate her new boyfriend's credentials. Naval crime drama, guest starring Ivan Sergei. Last in the series.

8.55 5 News Weekend.

9.00 Football on 5: The Championship. George Riley and Lynsey Hippgrave introduce highlights from the weekend's games in the Championship.

10.20 Film: The Frozen Ground. (2013) Premier. A state trooper tries to bring a serial killer to justice with the help of the only woman to escape from him. Fact-based crime drama, with Nicolas Cage.

12.15 SuperCasino. **3.10 The Boy Who Can't Stay Awake.** (R) **4.00 Celebrity Botched Up Bodies.** (R) **4.50 House Doctor.** (R) **5.40 Angels of Jarm.** (R) **5.50 Roary the Racing Car.** (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four

7.00 Roman Britain: A Timewatch Guide **8.00 Egypt's Lost Queens.** **9.00 Modus** **10.30 Top of the Pops:** 1982 **11.45 Reggae at the BBC:** 1915 Old Grey Whistle Test: Reggae Concert from the Edinburgh Festival **2.00 Sounds of the 70s.** **2.30 When Quizzing Got Cool:** TV's Brains of Britain **3.30 Close**

ITV2

11.00 I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here! **12.30 Celebrity Catchphrase.** **1.30 You've Been Framed Gold at Christmas.** **3.05 Film:** Beethoven's Christmas Adventure (2011) **4.45 FYI Daily:** Beethoven's Christmas Adventure (2011) **4.55 I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here!**

6.25 Film: The Mummy Tomb of the Dragon Emperor. (2008) **7.25 FYI Daily:** **7.30 Film:** The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor (2008) **8.30 Scorpion** **9.30 The X-Factor Live.** **10.00 Family Guy.** **10.35 I'm a Celebrity: Extra Camp** **11.35 Family Guy.** **12.35 American Dad!** **1.05 Film:** American Pie (1999) **2.05 FYI Daily** **2.20 FYI Daily:** **12.25 Film:** Universal Soldier: Regeneration (2009) **1.00 Car Crash Global 2.0 Hell on Wheels**

E4

11.40 Foyle's War. **5.50 A Touch of Frost** **8.00 Doc Martin.** **9.00 The Booze Cruise** **11.10 Lewis.** **1.15 Wycliffe.** **2.15 ITV3 Nightscreen.** **2.30 TeleShopping**

ITV4

11.40 Paws on the Front. **2.00 Film:** All Quiet on the Western Front (1979) **3.00 FYI Daily:** **3.05 Film:** All Quiet on the Western Front (1979) **4.05 Fishing Impossible.** **6.10 Storage Wars.** **7.10 Film:** Police Academy 2: Their First Assignment (1985) **8.10 FYI Daily:** **8.15 Film:** Police Academy 3: Their First Assignment (1985) **9.00 Film:** 16 Blocks (2006) **10.00 FYI Daily:** **10.05 Film:** 16 Blocks (2006) **11.00 FYI Daily:** **11.20 Film:** Universal Soldier: Regeneration (2009) **12.20 FYI Daily:** **12.25 Film:** Universal Soldier: Regeneration (2009) **1.00 Car Crash Global 2.0 Hell on Wheels**

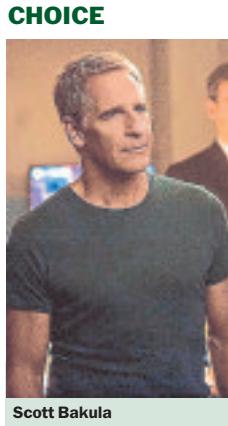
Film4

11.30 The Goldbergs. **1.30 Film:** Clueless (1995) **3.30 Rude(ish): Tube Shorts.** **3.50 The Big Twillight Saga: New Moon.** (2009) **7.20 Film:** The Twilight Saga: New Moon (2009) **9.00 Tattoo Fixers.** **11.00 Gogglebox.** **12.05 The Inbetweeners.** **1.10 Rude Tube.** **3.10 New Girl.** **4.55 Revenge**

Film4

11.00 20 Million Miles to Earth (1957) **1.00 Epic** (2013) **3.05 Carry On Constable** (1960) **4.50 Congo** (1995) **7.05 Men in Black** (1997) **9.00 Taken 2,** (2012) **10.50 Horns** (2013) **1.10 Helbey** (2004) **3.35 Close**

the fast ticket



Scott Bakula

NCIS: New Orleans (Channel 5, 8pm)

Last week, Merri Brody appeared to fall for the man that mothers warn their daughters about, the one that is too good to be true. Homeland Security Agent John Russo, who was part of the investigation when Brody tracked evidence in the death of an Army general back to Washington DC, set up shop in New Orleans, giving him a cover for his drug smuggling operation. In tonight's explosive season two finale, the NCIS team are partnered with Homeland on the case of a murdered Navy diver, and there are implications that indicate a link to a terrorist attack on the Big Easy. Percy eventually finds some of those explosives that are wired and ready to blow. But can she work quick enough to defuse the bomb?



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CHOICE



Ant and Dec

I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here! (ITV, 9pm)

It is now 21 long days since this year's batch of famous faces - Adam Thomas, Carol Vorderman, Joelle Dommert, Jordan Banjo, Larry Lamb, Lisa Snowdon, Ola Jordan, Sam Quek, Scarlett Moffatt and Wayne Bridge - entered the New South Wales jungle. Tonight, Ant and Dec present the final of the celebrity survival challenge as the last remaining celebs complete their ordeal. As usual the presenters will be springing a few last-day surprises on the contestants, including, no doubt, the infamous annual eating challenge and another daily task. Which of the final line-up will succeed Vicky Pattison and be crowned King or Queen of the Jungle this evening?

BBC1

- 6.00 Breakfast. **7.30** Match of the Day. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** Fern Britton Meets Nigel Benn. **11.00** Regional Programme. **12.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Escape to the Country. (R) **1.45** FA Cup Final Score. **4.20** Planet Earth II. (R) **5.20** Songs of Praise. **5.35** BBC News.
- 6.10** Regional Programme.
- 6.20** Countryfile. The team explores Lincolnshire, where John Craven meets a farmer harvesting sprouts in time for Christmas and finds out about an allotment to cross-sow and the traditional foodstuffs available with kale. Anita Rani uncovers how robots are being used to pull up weeds, reducing the need for chemicals, and Ellie Harrison visits abandoned RAF buildings that are now home to bats. Including weather for the week ahead.
- 7.20** Strictly Come Dancing: The Results. Tess Daly and Claudia Winkelman present the results of last night's show and reveal who will not be going through to the semi-finals. Featuring music from Elaine Paige.
- 8.00** Planet Earth II. Wildlife that inhabit the world's grasslands, exploring how animals adapt to survive in areas that endure some of the most dramatic seasonal changes seen in the world.
- 9.00** My Mother and Other Strangers. Rose's sister Vera arrives in Moybeg for her annual visit and takes a liking to Captain Dreyfuss, forcing Rose to open up about her feelings for the American officer.
- 10.00** BBC News.
- 10.20** Regional Programme.
- 10.30** Match of the Day 2. Mark Chapman reviews the day's Premier League action, as Bournemouth faced Liverpool at the Vitality Stadium and Everton hosted Manchester United at Goodison Park.
- 11.35** Sunny D. Dane dreads having to introduce Nicola's father, who despises him, to his own parents. The meeting is made even more stressful when it clashes with a work football match.
- 11.55** Citizen Khan. Mr Khan wants to meet Alia's boyfriend's parents, but finds the boy is nervous at the prospect - leading to a sweaty confrontation in a sauna. (R) **12.25** Weather for the Week Ahead. **12.30** BBC News.

BBC2

- 6.00 The A to Z of TV Gardening. (R) **6.45** Big Dreams Small Spaces. (R) **7.45** Life in a Cottage Garden with Carol Klein. (R) **8.15** Carol Klein's Plant Odysseys. (R) **8.45** Countryfile. (R) **9.45** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **10.00** International Rugby Union. (R) **12.15** MOTD2 Extra. **1.00** Live Snooker: UK Championship. Coverage of the opening session of the final from York.
- 6.00** MOTD: FA Cup Highlights. Manish Bhasin presents action from the second-round matches, which saw the remaining 40 teams battle it out for a potentially lucrative spot in round three. Matches included Bolton Wanderers v Sheffield United at the Macron Stadium, Millwall v Braintree Town at the Den, Port Vale v Hartlepool at Vale Park and Charlton Athletic v Milton Keynes Dons at the Valley.
- 7.00** Live Snooker: UK Championship. Coverage of the second session of the final from the Barbican Centre in York, as the tournament widely regarded as the second-most prestigious on the calendar concludes. Australia's Neil Robertson emerged triumphant in the showpiece match at last year's event, as he capitalised on a 5-3 lead from the opening session by going on to lift the trophy with a 10-5 victory. Presented by Hazel Irvine, with a commentary team that includes Steve Davis, Ken Doherty, Stephen Hendry, John Parrott, Dennis Taylor and John Virgo. Subsequent programmes are subject to change.
- 11.00** M.A. David Mitchell's Noel Coward and Holly Walsh join Alan Davies and host Sandi Toksvig to contemplate questions on the theme of "night" in an extended edition of the panel show.
- 11.45** Jessie's 1980s: From Dole To Soul. The Soul II Soul frontman opens up about the decade that made his career, and the against-the-odds story of a young black British musician who became a chart-topping artist. (R)
- 12.45** Film: Three Fugitives. (1989) A reformed bank robber is an innocent bystander in a heist, but when he is assumed to be guilty he goes on the run with the actual crook. Comedy, with Nick Nolte and Martin Short. **2.20** Sign Zone: Countryfile. The team explores the Brecon Beacons. (R) **3.15** Holby City. Matteo's arrival irritates Jac. (R) **4.15** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

- 6.00** CITV: Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. **6.10** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.20** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.45** Sooty. (R) **6.55** Post Stories. (R) **7.00** Super Sleuth: 7.15 Oddball. (R) **7.25** Scrambled!: Nerds & Monsters. (R) **7.50** Scrambled!: Horrid Henry. (R) **7.10** Scrambled!: Looped. **8.30** Scrambled!: Thunderbirds Are Go. **9.05** Scrambled!: Adventure Time. (R) **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** Bear Grylls Survival School. **10.00** Peston on Sunday. **11.00** Best Walks with a View with Julia Bradbury. (R) **11.30** Let's Do Christmas with Ginn & Mel. (R) **12.30** ITV News; Weather. **12.35** The Chase. (R) **1.35** The X Factor. (R) **3.05** Midsomer Murders. (R) **5.00** Tipping Point. (R)
- 6.00** Regional Programme; Weather. **6.15** ITV News; Weather.
- 6.30** Off Their Rockers. Louise Spence checks out Sel's dancing skills.
- 7.00** The Next Great Magician. The Wanted's Tom Parker and the cast of TOWIE are on hand to assist another group of magicians with their performances, which include mind-reading and levitation acts.
- 8.00** The X Factor. Dermot O'Leary reveals which acts are guaranteed a place in next week's final. The remaining performers must compete in a sing-off before one more is eliminated from the contest.
- 9.00** I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here! Ant and Dec present the final of the 16th series, as the remaining three famous faces take on the last challenges in the Australian jungle. Viewers' votes will decide who has been this year's favourite contestant, and when the results are in, this year's King or Queen of the Jungle will be crowned, before the last handful of contestants return home. The presenters will be catching up with the contestants later in the week for a special follow-up show as they return to normal life after the hardships of the Bush.
- 10.35** ITV News; Weather.
- 10.50** Peston on Sunday. (R)
- 11.50** Premiership Rugby Union. Highlights from the 10th round of fixtures, which included Sale Sharks v Exeter Chiefs.
- 12.40** Jackpot247. **3.00** Motorsport UK. **3.50** ITV Nightscreen. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

CHANNEL 4

- 6.10** The King of Queens. (R) **6.35** The King of Queens. (R) **7.00** The King of Queens. (R) **7.25** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.55** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.25** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Saturday Brunch. (R) **10.30** Jamie's Cracking Christmas. (R) **1.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **2.20** The Simpsons. (R) **2.30** Film: School of Rock. (2003) Comedy, starring Jack Black. **5.35** Film: Miracle on 34th Street. (1994) Christmas family drama remake, with Richard Attenborough. **7.35** Channel 4 News.
- 8.00** Escape to the Chateau. Fresh from the success of hosting a three-day wedding at the chateau, Dick and Angel make business plans for the grounds, intending to charge people to fish in the moat and forage in the woods. Angel starts work on a second guest suite, but also wants to install an elevator, which pushes Dick's engineering skills to the limit.
- 9.00** Humans. Athena challenges Milo about his unethical plans, and is shocked to discover the true extent of the tycoon's ambitions. Max decides to start a new community of synths, and takes matters into his own hands when he learns how far Leo is prepared to go in pursuit of his goals. Mattie is not sure who to trust with her secret, and Mia has a revelation that has shocking consequences for the Hawkins family.
- 10.00** Gogglebox. Capturing the households' instant reactions to what they are watching on TV from the comfort of their own sofas. (R)
- 11.05** 8 Out of 10 Cats. Irreverent panel show hosted by Jimmy Carr, in which two teams answer questions based on opinion polls to see who best understands what is going on in Britain today. (R)
- 12.05** The Last Leg. A comic review of the past seven days. (R) **1.00** 60 Days in Jail. Department stores security guard Jeff enters as the last volunteer. (R) **1.50** Film: A Pigeon Sat on a Branch Reflecting on Existence. (2014) Comedy, starring Holger Andersson and Nils Westblom. **3.35** Shipping Wars UK. (R) **4.10** George Clarke's Amazing Spaces. A project to transform a Victorian railway signal box into a summerhouse. (R) **5.05** Location, Location, Location. Kirstie and Phil search for homes in Cambridgeshire. (R)

CHANNEL 5

- 6.00** Milkshake!: Milkshake! Monkey. **6.05** Milkshake!: Bop Box. (R) **6.10** Peppa Pig. **6.15** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **6.25** Bob the Builder. (R) **6.40** Weather. **6.50** Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **7.05** Fireman Sam. (R) **7.15** Pip Ahoy! (R) **7.30** Little Princess. (R) **7.45** Paw Patrol. **8.05** Blaze and the Monster Machines. **8.30** Noddy in Toyland. (R) **8.45** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **8.55** Shimmy and Shine. (R) **9.25** Peppa Pig. (R) **9.35** Peppa Pig. (R) **9.45** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.55** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.30** Football on 5: The Championship. (R) **11.50** Funniest Fails. **Flips & Flops. 12.20** Film: The 12 Gifts of Christmas. (2015) Premiere. Comedy, starring Katrina Law. **2.05** Film: Call Me Claus. (2001) Christmas family drama, starring Whoopi Goldberg. **3.50** Film: Deck the Halls. (2006) Thriller, comedy, starring Dennis DeWitt and Matthew Modine. **5.50** Film: Bulletproof Monk. (2003) Martial arts thriller, starring Chazz Yun-Fat. **7.40** Film: Hellboy II: The Golden Army. (2008) The demon superhero, aided by a team from the Bureau of Paranormal Research and Defence, leads the fight against renegade elf Prince Nuada who is intent on reawakening an unstoppable robot army and bringing about the demise of mankind. Action fantasy sequel directed by Guillermo del Toro, starring Ron Perlman, Selma Blair, Doug Jones and Luke Goss. Edited for violence and language. Includes 5 News Update at 8.40pm.
- 10.00** Film: Green Lantern. (2011) Premiere. A pilot joins a galactic peacekeeping force with incredible powers and defends Earth from an alien attack. Sci-fi adventure, starring Ryan Reynolds and Blake Lively. Includes 5 News Update at 11pm.

DIGITAL

- BBC Four**
- 7.00** The Flying Archaeologist. **7.30** Britten's Endgame. **9.30** The Turner Prize 2016. The Nominees. **10.00** Storyville: Forever Pure - Football and Racism in Jerusalem. **11.25** Cosmonauts: How Russia Won the Space Race. **12.55** Monkey Planet. **1.55** Blink. A Horizon Guide to the Senses. **3.55** Egypt's Lost ITV2
- 11.25** The X Factor. **1.00** I'm a Celebrity: Get Me Out of Here! **2.00** Film: Beethoven's Christmas Adventure. (2011) **3.50** Film: The Polar Express (2004). **5.50** I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here! **6.50** Film: The Incredible Hulk. (2008) **9.00** Film: Xtra Factor. **9.00** Film: Call Me Claus. (2001) **10.35** I'm a Celebrity... Extra Camp. **11.35** Family Guy. **12.35** American Dad! **1.30** The Cleveland Show
- ITV3**
- 12.45** Film: Columbo: Dagger of the Mind. (1972) **2.50** Film: The Nun's Story (1959). **3.55** FYI Daily. **4.00** Film: The Nutcracker. (1959) **5.50** Roy of the Woods. **8.00** Lewis (1970). **10.00** Alastair Armstrong's Land of the Midnight Sun. **11.00** A Touch of Frost. **1.15** Santa Claus: The Movie (1985). **2.05** FYI Daily. **2.10** Film: Santa Claus: The Movie (1985). **3.00** May the Best House Win. **4.40** Yuletide ITV4
- 12.15** Cash Cowboys. **12.00** Pawn Stars. **12.55** Film: All Quiet on the Western Front. (1979) **1.55** FYI Daily. **2.00** Film: The Quiet on the Western Front. (1979) **4.00** Lewis (1967). **6.10** Film: Police Academy. (1985) **7.10** FYI Daily. **7.15** Film: Police Academy 2: Their First Assignment. (1985) **8.00** Premiums. **9.00** Film: Rambo III. (1988) **1.10** Fishing Impossible. **2.10** Hell on Wheels
- Film4**
- 11.30** Made in Chelsea. **12.35** First Dates Abroad. **1.30** Film: Addams Family Values (1993). **3.25** Rude(ish) Tube Shorts. **3.30** The Goldbergs. **5.30** The Big Bang Theory. **9.00** Film: The Mechanic. (2011) **10.50** Tattoo Fixers. **11.50** The Inbetweeners. **12.55** Rude Tube. **2.30** Tattoo Fixers
- Film4**
- 11.00** The Three Stooges. (2012) **1.00** Miracle on 34th Street. (1947) **2.55** The Rugrats Movie. (1994) **3.0** City of Ember (2008) **6.15** Clear and Present Danger (1994) **9.00** Men in Black II. (2002) **10.45** A Time to Kill. (1996) **1.40** Wild Bill (2011) **3.50** Close

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MONDAY

Hate Off to Christmas!, Channel 5, 3.15pm

A small-town hat shop employee resents being asked to train her boss's son for a job she wants for herself, but warms to him when he shows an interest in helping her son with a project. However, she remains doubtful whether he can be relied on, a suspicion that seems confirmed when he is tempted to leave for New York. Romantic drama, with Haylie Duff. (2013)

TUESDAY

Mystery Road, BBC1, 12am

An Aboriginal Australian detective returns to his home town in the Outback to investigate the murder of a teenager. He finds himself treated as an outsider by the local police, but also ostracised by his own community – including the daughter he left behind. Murder mystery, starring Aaron Pedersen. (2013)



Junior, Friday, ITV, 10.40pm

WEDNESDAY

Defending Santa, Channel 5, 3.15pm

A small-town sheriff finds a man asleep in the woods who claims to be Santa Claus. The mysterious stranger goes to court to prove he is who he claims to be, leading to an increase in Christmas spirit among the locals and romance between the lawman and the defence attorney. Festive drama, starring Dean Cain, Bill Lewis and Jodie Sweetin. (2013)

THURSDAY

Christmas Confession, Channel 5, 3.15pm

When a struggling actress returns to her hometown for Christmas, a holiday romance makes her realise the life she left behind may be better than the one she has started in New York. Romantic drama, starring Sarah Lancaster and Garry Chalk. (2015)

FRIDAY

Junior, ITV, 10.40pm

A fertility expert pioneers a treatment enabling men to become pregnant and carry babies to full term. When the authorities cancel funding for the research, he decides to test it on himself, but gives little thought to how difficult it will be to keep it a secret. The situation is further complicated when he starts to fall for the woman whose child he is carrying. Comedy, with Arnold Schwarzenegger and Danny DeVito. (1994)

Duo look to hit all the right notes Together

Michael Ball and Alfie Boe. At first glance, it looks like an odd pairing. Both of them have hugely successful careers, so why would they team up? Why not carry on going it alone and take sole credit for all their achievements?

Well, as they say, two's company. Being on the road is lonely, so having somebody with you who understands the rigours involved is probably rather pleasant. This duo also seem to enjoy the banter that can ensue.

During their recent gigs, they have poked fun at the drama surrounding the US Presidential election. Admittedly, it's not exactly high-class satire, but it's an awful lot more interesting than just some bloke standing there belting out a big tune.

Both Ball and Boe are noted for their vocal talents and charisma, but they're not the huge egos that some stars tend to be, which is probably another reason why they work together so well. They have an easy charm and common touch that appeals to people of both sexes and all classes.

Their detractors claim they are both too cheesy for their own good – although with millions of record sales between them, you could argue that their demeanours have worked a treat for them so far. Besides, neither of them seem to care – in fact, there's even a sense of ironic self-awareness within their performances.

Boe and Ball have recently released a joint album, which is rather obviously titled *Together*, and now they appear to be joined at the hip, having appeared on the *Strictly Come Dancing* results show a few weeks back; they're also touring the nation as we speak.

But now they're heading for a TV tour and now we've got an ITV special," says Ball. "You can't get better than that. We have some great material to share with the viewers; I can't wait to get started."

Boe adds: "We had such a laugh making the album, making our own

TV show is going to be great. Make sure you tune in for some special performances."

The boys' album features their own unique takes on such classic tunes as *For Once in My Life*, *When You Wish Upon a Star* and *You'll Never Walk Alone*. On tour they've added the likes of *Ain't That a Kick in the Head* and *Tell Me It's Not True*.

Expect at least some of those to appear here, alongside a medley of songs from *Les Misérables*.

Joining them on stage will be singer-songwriter Rick Astley as well as Olivier Award-winning performer Maria Friedman, who counts appearances in *Chicago*, *Ragtime* and *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* on her resume, although most viewers will recognise her from her stint as Elaine Peacock in *EastEnders*.

It promises to be wonderful night of entertainment, and just remember – two is better than one, which means we should get double the fun from this duo.



Ball and Boe: One Night Only, Friday, ITV, 9pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY
Brits Icon – Robbie Williams
ITV, 9pm

Elton John and David Bowie. What they have in common? They're legends, of course. Bona fide superstars whose songs have become classics; they're also the only two previous winners of the Brit icon award. Adding his name to that list is Robbie Williams. Now, we don't want to criticise the Robster, but few would regard him quite so highly as the aforementioned duo, and therefore might suggest that he doesn't deserve to be regarded alongside such luminaries. However, he's won more Brit awards than anybody else in history – 18 in total, if you count the five he won with Take That and his icon trophy. To celebrate, Williams plays a special gig featuring highlights from new album *The Heavy Entertainment Show*, as well as a few old favourites, and there's a look back at archive footage from throughout his music career.

TUESDAY
This Is Us
Channel 4, 9pm

Do you believe in star signs? If not, this new drama series may leave you wondering if your date of birth does have some influence over your life after all, as it explores the interweaving existences of a variety

of individuals who share the same birthday – and more besides. In the first episode, Jack is determined that his wife Rebecca should celebrate her birthday, even if she is a bit preoccupied with the fact that she's pregnant with triplets. Meanwhile, Randal marks his special day by tracking down his absent father, and sitcom star Kevin and his twin sister Kate are dealing with personal crises of their own. The impressive ensemble cast includes Mandy Moore, Milo Ventimiglia and Sterling K Brown, who recently won an Emmy for *The People v OJ Simpson*.

WEDNESDAY
In Plain Sight
ITV, 9pm
 New series. Drama series set in 1955 based on the true story of Lanarkshire detective William Muncie's quest to bring to justice notorious Scottish killer Peter Manuel. With Manuel having been released from prison after a nine-year sentence for housebreaking and sexual assaults, he attacks a young woman and keeps her with him in an open field for most of the night before returning to

his home, and Muncie is convinced further crimes are certain to be committed.

Big Life Fix with Simon Reeve
BBC2, 9pm

New series. Simon Reeve and a team of inventors try to help people in need, creating solutions to everyday problems, beginning with a terminally ill photographer who can no longer use his hands to operate a camera. They attempt to bring cutting-edge technology to a remote Welsh village which has no internet access and an unreliable telephone connection, and give some control back to a young designer who has

Parkinson's disease and who has been unable to use a pen since developing tremors in her hands two years ago.

THURSDAY
Grand Designs: House of the Year
Channel 4, 9pm
 Kevin McCloud is encroaching

on George Clarke's Amazing Spaces territory this week, as he turns his attention to five properties which have made clever use of small sites. Among the places in the running for the title of House of the Year 2016 is an ultra-stylish one-bedroom space for living and working, which boasts an experimental garden roof. Kevin discovers how a dark mews has become a light and airy home, visits a Dungeness house that combines beach living with high architecture, and calls in on a particularly ingenious extension in Harrogate. He also learns how a narrow beachfront garage has made over into a stunning house with enough room for an extensive art collection.

FRIDAY
Friday Night Supper Club
Channel 4, 11.55pm
 No, this is not a spin-off from the popular sitcom *Friday Night Dinner*. Instead, it's a competition between six of Britain's hottest chefs, who go head-to-head in a post-pub showdown. Alex Szrok, Imran Bashir, Elizabeth Allen, Andrea Michelon, James Cochran and Lee Tiernan are the culinary geniuses taking part, and they'll be whipping up tasty, inventive new dishes that can be easily replicated by using everyday staple ingredients, including chicken, beef and rhubarb.

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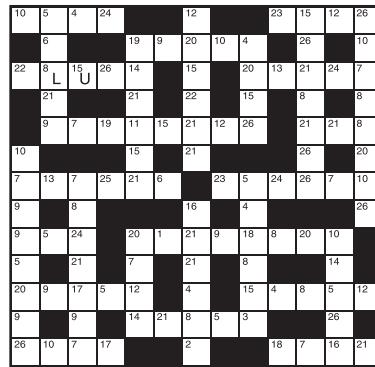
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Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|----|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| R | N | O | F | P | X | E | T | L | H | D | Z | |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| M | U | K | A | C | G | J | S | Y | W | B | Q | V |

Quiz

- Who was born Elizabeth Angela Marguerite Bowes-Lyon?
- On which island is the Foreign Legion's main base?
- Which Bond producer died in September 1994?
- What are divided into tropical, continental and rain-shadow?
- What type of plant is traveller's joy?
- Who composed The Dream of Gerontius?
- Who wrote The Seagull?
- Which group had a UK hit single in 1996 with Virtual Insanity?
- What is an ondes Martenot?
- To what did Rangoon change its name in 1989?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Josiah Spode; 2 Saltpetre or nitre; 3 Estonia; 4 Mario Andretti; 5 Opportunity Knocks; 6 Penicillin; 7 A; 8 Turnip; 9 Virgo; 10 Snake.

Niner: DISMANTLE

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

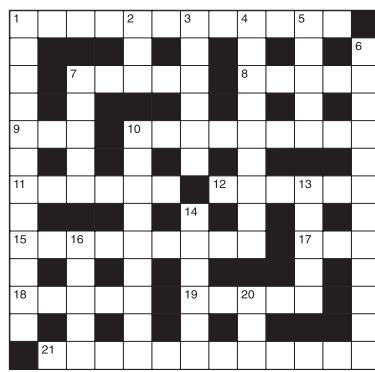
Cryptic Clues:

Across

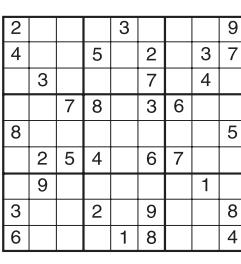
- Dexterous chief assistants (5+3)
- He gives an alternative to the fellow (5)
- Don't drop the fish (5)
- Manage to take part in the sports (3)
- Food at the back of the meadow for the bird (9)
- An idea for making her toy (6)
- A name for the warden? (6)
- Round which people hold hands (4,5)
- Part of a delectable inflorescent garland (3)
- Heather and I surrounded by unusual care (5)
- It's produced by one strange tree (5)
- Below the proceeds for certain contracts (12)
- No voucher for the single-minded! (6,6)
- Barrel of fruit upturned (3)
- The Marine is confused by those who fly over (6)
- Lack of vigour of French modulation (9)
- Rate revision is about ten more (5)
- They produce revolutionary devices (12)
- Study the south-east - it's thickly populated (5)
- Splendid speed one attains in bottom gear? (5-4)
- Get better for the reunion (5)
- The aim is to protest (6)
- The first of the governors in control as a rule! (5)
- Its apple is a gall (3)

Quick Clues:
Across
Down

- Dumb (12)
- At that point (5)
- Splendid speed one attains in bottom gear? (5-4)
- Get better for the reunion (5)
- The aim is to protest (6)
- The first of the governors in control as a rule! (5)
- Its apple is a gall (3)
- Middle (12)
- Part of foot (3)
- Hair-raising (6)
- Merry (9)
- Retinue (5)
- Ill-timed (12)
- Bog (6)
- Subject (5)
- Mediate (9)
- Wrath (5)
- By hand (6)
- Sham (5)
- Cleverness (12)



Sudoku

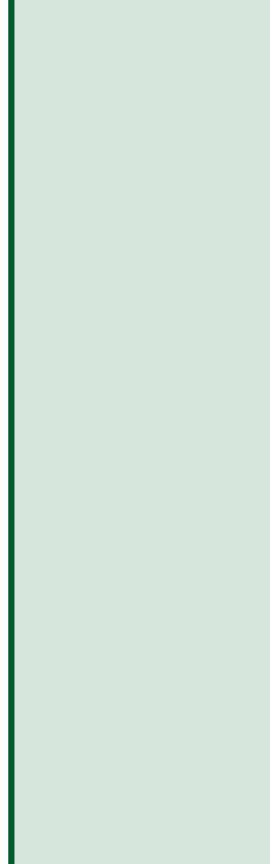


Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >
3 4 7 1 6 2 8 9 5 1
6 8 9 3 5 1 4 2 7
1 2 5 4 9 7 6 8 3
9 5 4 6 3 8 7 2 4
5 6 1 8 7 9 3 0 2
8 7 3 9 4 5 6 1 0
5 7 1 9 4 2 3 6 9
4 9 8 7 3 6 2 1 5
2 3 6 9 1 5 7 4 8

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:
CRYPTIC - Across: 4 Epitaph; 8 Aight; 9 Joining;
10 Tacked; 11 Idlers; 12 Foresail; 18 Listener;
20 Sooner; 21 Forage; 22 Arrange; 23 Talent; 24 Secrets. Down: 1 Mastiff; 2 Discard; 3 Sheets;
5 Profiles; 6 Tingle; 7 Penny; 13 All right; 14 Engaged; 15 Tangle; 16 Course; 17 Final; 19 Tropic; 20 QUICK - Across: 1 Distress; 2 Inactive;
9 Achieve; 10 Valley; 11 Desert; 12 Inactive;
18 Catholic; 20 Bursar; 21 Inact; 22 Illegal; 23 Serene; 24 Snippet. Down: 1 Prevail; 2 Unclean;
3 Reject; 5 Incident; 6 Evince; 7 Saving; 13 Increase; 14 Gleamed; 15 Scatter; 16 Sullen; 17 Asleep; 19 Hunger.

Thinking space



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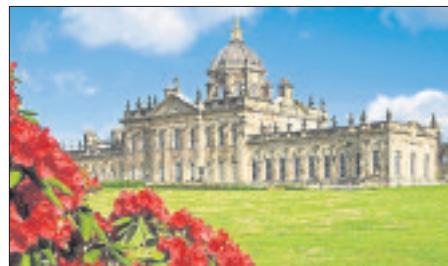
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It's tea time at Betty's Cafe Tea Rooms



Glorious – the nave at York Minster



Castle Howard – Vanbrugh's mansion was TV's Brideshead



The Shambles pictured during the annual autumn Illuminating York festival

Just my cup of tea – there's nowt better than York for a city break

THE ancient capital of northern England was known to the Romans as Eboracum, to the Vikings as Jorvik. But we know it as York, an historic city that has remained vibrant and fashionable.

It is one of Britain's great city break destinations with something for everyone – whether a history buff, a shop-till-you-drop consumer or a connoisseur of good pubs and quality restaurants.

The foremost must-see sight is the colossal York Minster. It is 500 feet long, 100 feet wide with a central tower 200 feet high. Taking more than 250 years to build, it first opened for worship more than 500 years ago. It is the largest medieval gothic cathedral north of the Alps and the magnificent edifice is more than matched by a glorious interior with impressive stained glass windows.

Nearby is the Shambles with its medieval half-timbered buildings tilting towards each other. It is said to have inspired Harry Potter's Diagon Alley. It is the most famous street in a city that has a labyrinth of snickelways and ginnels, passages best experienced when darkness falls and you can join one of several ghost walks.

There are more than three kilometres of city

By Leon Burakowski

walls to explore or take a boat trip on the River Ouse. You can spend days delving into the past at the Yorkshire, York Castle or National Railway museums. Experience 10th century life at Jorvik Viking Centre with its costumed inhabitants.

For those with a sweet-tooth, York's Chocolate Story tells of the city's famous confectionery families Craven, Terry and Rowntree, with tastings.

A trip to York is not complete without visiting Betty's, a Yorkshire institution. The uniformed staff serve a range of teas in the proper old fashioned way. The formidable afternoon tea has three tiers of delicious savoury sandwiches, scones with jam and cream, and array of divine cakes. Tea in the elegant art deco surroundings of the cafe tearooms on St Helen's Square is a treat – and you can take home a packet of Betty's own special tea blend.

Just a short drive from the city is Castle Howard, familiar from TV and film as the home of the Flytes in Evelyn Waugh's *Brideshead Revisited*. It is one of the finest stately homes in Britain. The monuments on the road to the mansion declare you are approaching somewhere special.

Built in the 1700s by Sir John Vanbrugh for the Earl of Carlisle and his family, the Howards, it is full of antiquities and artworks that the Howards brought to their palace in the hills. The Great Hall is breathtakingly impressive. The informative exhibition reveals that the Howards had lives every bit as dramatic as the Flytes.

Moors

North Yorkshire Moors Railway steams through forests and heathlands from the market town of Pickering to the old fishing port of Whitby. Harry Potter fans may recognise the remote station Goathland as Hogsmeade, station for Hogwarts.

Whitby is famous for its gothic abbey ruins, where Count Dracula took refuge on arrival in England in Bram Stoker's novel. Thus it is a magnet for goths who explore the graveyard of St Mary's, where the headstones of long dead mariners have weathered into coral-like patterns. It's 199 steps down to the town to buy the local Jet black jewellery or visit the house where explorer Captain Cook learned his craft. Whatever you do, don't leave Whitby without enjoying a fish and chip supper. There's nowt better.

FACT FILE

When planning a trip to York see www.visityork.org website. The York Pass, available for one, two or three days, provides admission to more than 30 attractions in York and North Yorkshire, giving a major saving for those on the tourist trail. To buy a York Pass or for more information contact York Visitor Information Centre on 01904 550099, email info@yorkpass.com or visit www.yorkpass.com

For further information on Bettys see www.bettys.co.uk/tea-rooms/locations/york and an online shopping service is available at www.bettys.co.uk

York Christmas Festival and St Nicholas Fair runs until December 23. See www.visityork.org/christmas for details. Other useful websites include www.castlehoward.co.uk and www.nymr.co.uk

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Popular and versatile SUV – 2008

By James Parker

The recently revised new Peugeot 2008 SUV that arrived in UK showrooms in the summer is in strong demand with over 40,000 existing UK customers and 500,000 produced since launch in 2013. The appetite for this model continues to rise, with sales in the first half of 2016 up 16 per cent, with 99,900 units sold worldwide.

The latest Peugeot 2008 SUV has recently been updated, with refreshed styling and featuring an enhanced specification.

Enhanced

It has an even more assertive and appealing SUV design, including visual features to give it an enhanced presence; new wheel arch extensions (from Allure level), while a new vertical front grille and front and rear scuff plates (also from Allure level) confirm its robustness and are designed for everyday use.

The new 'Ultimate Red' colour further epitomises the power and desirability of the new 2008 SUV.

The Access A/C, Active and Allure levels are complemented by the new 'GT Line' model. This desirable trim level is already a very popular choice on other key Peugeot models (108, 208, 308 and 508), and adds a sporty theme throughout.

The Peugeot i-Cockpit® is unique to the Brand and embodies the driving characteristics of the Peugeot 2008 SUV, being agile, intuitive and safe.

The compact sports steering wheel offers precise steering and improved



Refreshed styling and enhanced specification



Grip Control gives the 2008 its versatility on all terrain

manoeuvrability, while the 7" multifunction colour touch screen puts all the functionality at your fingertips.

In addition, the head-up instrument panel allows driver information to be accessed without taking the eyes off the road.

Grip Control – an adapted traction system --

gives the 2008 SUV its versatility on all types of terrain.

It is combined with Mud & Snow (All-Season) tyres.

Equipment available on new Peugeot 2008 SUV includes (subject to trim level) MirrorScreen, and Carplay®, along with the

It has an even more assertive and appealing SUV design including visual features to give it an enhanced presence

reversing camera, Active City Brake and Park Assist – a rarity in this segment.

The Euro6 engines ensure high-level driving pleasure while remaining fuel efficient.

Four versions are 'Best-in-Class' in their segment, including the 1.2L PureTech 130 S&S 6-speed manual.

Mark Pickles, UK marketing director at Peugeot, said: "The 2008 SUV is a distinctive and popular, practical choice with our customers, with 500,000 of them worldwide and with sales up 16 per cent in the first half of 2016. Our current retail offers bring increased appeal to an already captivating vehicle."

PEUGEOT 2008, FROM £13,970



It has an even more assertive and appealing SUV design including visual features to give it an enhanced presence

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MOTORSHOW

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KEEP UP TO DATE WITH THE
LATEST MANUFACTURER
& DEALER OFFERS
BY VISITING
OUR SHOW...



DRIVING EXPERIENCE - COST OF OWNERSHIP - DESIGN & BUILD - RANGE

> VIDEO REVIEWS > DEALERSHIP INFORMATION



PROUD SPONSOR OF OUR NATIONAL FOOTBALL TEAMS



THINK YOU CAN'T AFFORD A NEW CAR?

£2,000* SCRAPPAGE

We'll give you up to £2,000* scrappage for your old car to put towards a brand new Vauxhall from across the range.



Dudley Motor Company

Dudley
01384 454100

T Wall Garages
Kingswinford
01384 288333

Halesowen Motor House

Halesowen
0121 503 0001

Stourbridge Motor House
Stourbridge
01384 447970



VAUXHALL

Official Government Test Environmental Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO₂ emissions (g/km). Vauxhall range: Urban: 12.7 (22.3) – 83.1 (3.4), Extra-urban: 23.3 (12.1) – 94.2 (3.0), Combined: 17.9 (15.8) – 91.1 (3.1). CO₂ emissions: 373 – 82g/km.*

*Up to £2,000 Scrappage Allowance towards selected new cars is offered on condition that the traded-in car must have been registered in your name as the owner for at least 90 days and the registration document must be in your name and address. Offer is for vehicles ordered from 15 November 2016 to 18 December 2016 which are subsequently registered by 31 December 2016. Offer applies to private individuals. Vauxhall Partners and small businesses 1-24 units (purchase only). All other customers are excluded. Offer available at participating Retailers only. Terms, conditions and exclusions apply. #Fuel consumption information is official government environmental data, tested in accordance with the relevant EU directive. Official EU-regulated test data are provided for comparison purposes and actual performance will depend on driving style, road conditions and other non-technical factors. Correct at time of going to press. Vauxhall Motors reserve the right to amend or withdraw this offer at any time.

Classified Ads

Buy Local, Sell Local

funeral directors

WOMBOURNE FUNERAL SERVICES Funeral Directors

Funerals from £1,350
plus Disbursements

Pre-paid plans. 24hr call-out
Private Chapels of Rest

Wombourne & Kinver Memorials

Monumental Masons Memorials from £450

Wombourne 01902 892635
Perton 01902 756830
Kinver 01384 873499
Wall Heath 01384 274222

wombournefuneralservices.co.uk

ClassifiedAds BUY LOCAL, SELL LOCAL

1
Family

elderly & disabled

WREKIN STAIRLIFTS reconditioned lifts from £799. New available. 01952 405397/07897 273617

2
Leisure
Time

caravans / motorhomes

We Want Your Motorhome

Finance Cleared
Fast Secure Payment
Top Prices Paid

Please Call
AEG on 01384 848439 or
Lee Jinks on 07740 895448
www.aegmotorhomes.co.uk

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YAMAHA PSR E423 Keyboard,
home use only, good condition,
ideal Christmas present. £260ono.
01902 497824.

sports & leisure

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For items upto £250.
Online at
bookanad.com
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holidays

caravan parks

LUXURY HOLIDAY HOME for Sale
on Park Lane, Chelmsford
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20 acres walking woodland £24,995 inc
2017 site fees Call 01568 708 326.

mind, body & soul

clairvoyance

CLAIRVOYANT JOHN STARKEY
Appointments, Home visits & Telephone readings 01902 334 224

what's on

antique fairs

ANTIQUE/COLLECTORS FAIR
Kings Cross Centre, Stratford
(also Bromsgrove every Fri) EST 1979
Waverley. Next antique fair
29th Dec (no antique fair 1st Jan).
Next book fair 2nd Jan. Stalls
available for all. Home made
refreshments. 0121 550 4123.

markets

BESCOT
SUNDAY MARKET
OPEN EVERY SUNDAY
Banks's Stadium, Walsall FC
WS1 4SA. FREE PARKING, J9 M6
07889 97501 All hard standing

3 Home & Services

furniture

A LAZYBOY electric recliner armchair mid grey, lovely condition, cost £850, £150. 01902 881490.

BED, 5FT KING SIZE

Luxury Memory Foam, all unused, cost £1,000 accept £295.
0778 7636984.

MEMORY FOAM

mattress, double, still wrapped, easy care, cost £250,
sell £200. 07251 857432.

THREE PIECE SUITE

G-plan, very good condition, cost £2,500, as new, sell £850. 01384 833839 or
07711 570870.

TWIN SEATER

leather electric recliner sofa, off white, excellent condition, cost £1,200, sell £500
ono. 07828 325258.

household appliances

FRIDGEMASTER fridge freezer, 4 door, stainless steel, 9 months guarantee, immaculate condition.
£160. 07767 430952.

items for sale

YOU HAVE CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully advise you that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

items wanted

ALL GOLD 9CT £300 PER OUNCE
CASH PAID TODAY
No comment is needed
A GENUINE LADY BUYER
All Beswick • Doulton • Worcester Porcelain
• Lladro • Old coin
• WATCHES • COSTUME JEWELLERY
• Diamond Jewellery
• Paintings
• ALL SILVER • All Oriental Items
Per 17 silver coins All war medals etc
ANYTHING OLD & INTERESTING

01922 495066 or 07971 783203

A BEST CASH PRICE

FOR ALL RAILWAY
COLLECTIONS
Any gauge or age
Hornby / Bachmann / Bowmans
/ Roundhouse / Graham / Farsch /
any live steam. Also Die Cast,
Corgi, Dinky, Spot On,
01384 836219/07891 713547.
therainmaster67@hotmail.com

COINS, MEDALS, BANK NOTES
Wanted by private collector.
Telephone 01902 676540.

READERS ARE ADVISED to carefully consider all of their options before agreeing to the sale of any of their items.

t.v. / home entertainment

service

AERIAL AND TV SPECIALIST
Aerial TV Repairs, Plasma, LED etc.
CCTV cameras supplied & fitted.
Any area. Free Estimates, 7 days.
Digital aerials, Sky installation, Wall
mounts / TV setups. 07850 330251.

specialists at your service

aerials

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CLASSIFIEDS HELPED ME...

I am very pleased
with the response
I get from my
Classified
Advertising
Contract

Steve -
AA Digital Aerials

FOR GREAT BUSINESS RESULTS CALL 01902 319 191

Brought to you by Express & Star

**AA DIGITAL
AERIALS**
AERIALS FITTED FROM £75
WE'LL BEAT ANY QUOTE
Work Guaranteed
01902 858191
01384 429166
01543 439095
01922 716029
07833 738857

alarms/security

PREMIER ALARMS

Supplied and Fitted £195
Servicing and Repairs
12 Months Warranty
All areas covered
All quotes beaten!

Call: 0121 601 9791

building services

DAVIES & SON BUILDERS

Over 35 years experience in the industry
All aspects of building work including:
Extensions, loft conversions, roofing,
driveways & landscaping.
Discounts offered.

01902 579592 / 07837 994465

carpet & upholstery cleaning

A CLASS CARPET & UPHOLSTERY CLEANING

OAP discount. Recession Prices.
Unbeatable Value: Rooms cleaned from £10

Call Paul 07870 341089

A BFLCLEAN for your Carpets &
Suite, OAP discounts. Best Prices.
Est., 20yrs. Steve 07496 922324.

electrical services

STEVE JONES ELECTRICAL
Rewires/safes, fuses, etc.
All domestic and commercial work.
07786 858977/01902 846167.

fencing

**PORTWAY
FENCING**
SPECIAL OFFER
10 hours of quality fencing,
concrete posts, gravel boards £695
HEAVY DUTY PANELS SUPPLIED AND FITTED
0121 531 5250 / 07866 137 656
Mon - Fri 8am - 4.30pm
Sat 8am - 12noon
83 Portway Rd, W'bury
www.portwayfencing.co.uk

gardening services

For all your Patio's,
Turfing, Decking, treework
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LANDSCAPING**
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Prestwood DY7 5AN
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or 07947 879403 or visit
www.prestwoodfencing.co.uk
for more details

gas fitting

READERS ARE ADVISED
To check that anyone
carrying out any Gas work
is Gas Safe Registered.
It is an offence under the Gas
Safety (Installation and Use)
Regulations 1998 to carry out
gas work in the UK without
being on the Gas Safe Register.

house clearances

A ABSOLUTE BEST cash price paid
for house clearances and bereavement.
Also removals undertaken.
07852 172641 / 0770 360327

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RUBBISH REMOVED
WASTE LICENCE
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07711661135

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SEMI RETIRED ROOFER
Ridge Tiles Rebated, flat
roofing, no job to small
40 years experience.
Keith: 07546 158165

skip hire

BIG JOHN MOVES RUBBISH!
No skips, we load, fast friendly
service, 25 Lister Rd, Dudley DY2
8JR, Est 35 years, 01384 232359.

skip hire

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REMOVALS
AND HOUSE
CLEARANCES**
We move anything.
Professional service,
45 years' experience,
DFS approved and we
take the stress away.

roofing

Please call:
07966 281957

carpet & upholstery cleaning

ONE STOP ROOFING

The Flat Roofing Specialists Specialising in: Felt, Fibreglass

& Tiling, Repointing & Chimney

Repairs, Fascias and Guttering.

FOR 1 MONTH ONLY

GET YOUR FLAT ROOF

REPLACED WITH FIBREGLASS

FOR THE SAME PRICE AS A FELT

ROOF & GUARANTEED

FOR 25 YEARS

(Felt only 10 year guarantee)

Family Business est 30 Years

0800 0855277 or 07538471274

MG ROOFING Flat roofs, tiling, roof
repairs, fascias and gutters. Call
01902 238589 / 07560 465449.

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Reliable & Friendly, Professional

Female Painters & Decorators

Attention to detail, competitive prices.

For the Perfect Finish with minimum hassle.

Plastering & Coving Work Undertaken

01384 287577 or 07812 484194

www.love-2-wallpaper.co.uk

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heating undertaken. Call for free

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Lines open 24 hours a day 7 days a week subject to terms

A LOCAL BUYER pays full market value and more for your property. Call Rick 07729 297901

7
Jobs

SELL IT FAST SELL IT LOCAL
01902 317878

Classified Ads

full time - general



BUSINESS & FUNDRAISING MANAGER
Salary - £20K per annum, negotiable plus performance related bonus. (30 hours per week)

Age Concern Stourbridge & Halesowen is a registered charity providing local needs for the elderly. You will have an innovative approach to income generation via fund raising, sponsorship, and successful bid and tender writing. You will have a personal income target.

You will seek to raise the profile of the charity in the local community it serves, including the recruitment of volunteers, and links with its stakeholders.

For more information regarding this position or to apply, please contact Dianne Legge at dionnelegge@actstourbridge.plus.com including your CV and a covering letter. Applications close Friday 9th December 2016.

Express & Star

BE A LOCAL STAR

Sales Relationship Merchandiser

Do you have an eye for detail, are you self-motivated, enthusiastic and are able to communicate effectively and with confidence.

The Express and Star are looking for a sales relationship merchandiser to join our team helping to grow audience, strengthen the relationship with retailers, readers and ensure the brand experience is positive.

Working within a busy customer focused environment, the successful applicant will work as part of a team, in designated territories, you will be required to ensure that all our titles are available, in key strategic positions to maximise response and exposure.

Previous sales or merchandising experience in the FMCG market is desirable, but not essential. The ability to react quickly and positively to a wide variety of situations is required. A professional attitude must be displayed at all times. You must have a full current driving licence, transport will be provided.

In return we offer full training and support, an annual salary of £8,360, 25 days holiday per year and enrolment into the company pension scheme.

The position is 20 hours per week worked across 5 days between Monday-Saturday, weekends and Bank Holiday working will be required on a rota basis.

If you would like to be considered for this role please send your cv and covering letter to:
HR Department Midland News Association, Queen Street, Wolverhampton WV1 1ES
or by e-mail to: hr@mammedia.co.uk

BARGAIN
FIAT PUNTO ELX 1.2

02 Reg., gold in colour, 2dr, manual, 12 months MoT, very good condition.

£450.
07718 622950.

Fiat Punto EVO 1.4 ACTIVE
2010, 3-dr, 75,000 miles, SH, MoT April 2017, e/w, e/m, Bluetooth, CD player. £2,150 ono. 07538 750391.

FORD FIESTA TITANIUM
1.4 (2010), 42,000 Miles, Black, 10 months MOT, Service History, Top spec Titanium Model, loads of extras, 4 new tyres, tinted windows, USB £4,750 ono 07841 500297

FORD FIESTA ZETEC
2008, 52,722 miles, black, electric windows, electric mirrors, MoT, one owner, Sony Bluetooth radio/phone quick, clear windscreen £3,000 ono 07913608119

FORD FIESTA CELEBRATION
2007, 68,000 miles, green, full leather, 12 months MoT, immaculate in and out, £3,400 ono. 07403 216963.

HONDA CIVIC TYPE-S
2009, 58,300 miles, 3 door, petrol, electric mirrors, dual zone climate control, fsh, long MoT, cruise control, panoramic glass roof. Fab car, very reluctant sale. £4,200 ono. 07730 681639.

HYUNDAI SANTA FE LTD
2008, 2.2, diesel, 198 bhp, auto, anthracite with grey leather. Excellent condition. 77,600 miles, economical, 2 owners, full MoT, FSH. £5,995 07973 823945.

JAGUAR X-TYPE 2.0 DIESEL
54 reg, very very low miles, MoT, unmarked leather interior, £2,100 ono. 07948 146611.

LAND ROVER FREELANDER TD4 SE S/W
2 litre diesel, 2004, 104k miles, silver, 12 months MoT, serviced, very good spec, heated seats, a/c, good condition. £2,100 ono. 07740 418668.

IMMACULATE
VOLKSWAGEN GOLF TSI

2013, 52,000 miles, abs, electric windows, air bag, electric mirrors, a/c, fsh, alarm, MoT, central locking, pas, tax, CD, 18 inch alloys, gardex pack £6,950 ono. 07746 476981.

cars under £1500

BARGAIN
BMW 318 Ti COMPACT

1998, 152,000 miles. Red. MoT End Jan 17. £275. 07825 394108 Kingswinford.

RENAULT MEGANE CABRIOLET CONVERTIBLE
2005, 55,000 genuine miles, fsh, 12 months MoT, gold, RCL, automatic lights and wipers, alloys, ABS, EW, EM. Very good condition. £850. o.n.o. 07506 885912.

FORD KA
58 plate
New MoT, EW, PAS, CL, two owners, £995. 07774 898966.

PEUGEOT 206 1.4
2005, 15,500 miles. Blue. Electric windows. Electric mirrors. Air Con. FSH. Alarm. MoT. £1,700. 07746 473512.

RENAULT CLIO EXTREME
2009, 26,300 miles, silver, 1149cc, 2 door, very good condition, full MoT. £1,999. 07879 403302.

TOYOTA AVENSIS 2.2
56, 66,800 miles. Black, abs, fsh, alarm, long MoT, metallic paint, cruise control, diesel, tax, Alloys, CD, Navigation System £2,100. 01384 831806.

MINI COOPER
2002 reg but leaving private plate on. Air con, great looking car, some service history. 101,000 miles, MoT Oct 2017. £1,395. Telephone 07847 893520 Coseley.

TOYOTA PREVIA DIESEL 2.0
06 reg. MoT four months, alloy wheels, silver, good tyres, good condition, 162,000 miles, navigation, clean car. £2,000 no offers 07424 542999.

VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.4 EXCLUSIVE CONVERTABLE
09, 27,400 miles, leather interior, heated seats, service history, MoT, AC. £2,800 o.n.o. 07407 439768 or 0121 530 9905.

BMW 325CI CONVERTIBLE
2002, 72,000 miles, metallic silver, black hood, taxed, full MoT, full service history, leather heated seats, a/c/icon, excellent condition, nice eye catcher. £2,995 ono. 01902 123456.

BOOK ON LINE - www.expressandstar.com/bookanad
IN PERSON - At your local Express & Star office
EMAIL: marie.hogg@expressandstar.co.uk

BARGAIN
NISSAN ALMERA 1.6

S Reg., automatic, blue, extremely reliable, 107,000 miles, MoT'd to April 2017. £375.

PEUGEOT 106 1600CC DIESEL
P reg, green, MoT till July, sunroof, genuine sale. £350 ono.

PEUGEOT 106 INDEPENDENCE
2001, Y reg, 17,000 genuine miles, green, air bag, MoT, one owner from new, sunroof, electric sunroof. First view will buy! £650 ono 07805975615

PEUGEOT 206 COUPE
02 plate, Mot, many new parts, 39,401 miles. £750 ono.

VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.4 BREEZE
S Reg., silver, 5dr hatchback, red, S reg, ABS, alarm, electric windows and door locks. CD / radio, excellent runner and mechanics, MoT March 2017. £250. 07733 383592.

VAUXHALL CORSA 1.4 BREEZE
S Reg., silver, 5dr hatchback, EW, radio cassette, MoT to November 2017, nice tidy car, 64k miles. Bargain £695. 01562 752815.

BARGAIN
PEUGEOT 206 HDI 1.4 DIESEL
2004, 5 door, E/W, PAS, A/C, CD player, 89,000 miles. (Cam belt replaced after 70,000 miles). £30 year road tax. 12 months MoT. £750. 07817 073369.

CONVERTIBLE
RENAULT MEGANE CABRIOLET CONVERTIBLE
2005, 55,000 genuine miles, fsh, 12 months MoT, gold, RCL, automatic lights and wipers, alloys, ABS, EW, EM. Very good condition. £850. o.n.o. 07506 885912.

VAUXHALL ASTRA 2009
2009, 61,500 miles, blue, abs, alarm, long MoT, central locking, pas, diesel. £3,599 ono. 07964 723540.

VAUXHALL ASTRA 5-dr Hatchback
red, S reg, ABS, alarm, electric windows and door locks. CD / radio, excellent runner and mechanics, MoT March 2017. £250. 07733 383592.

VAUXHALL ASTRA 5-dr Hatchback
S Reg., silver, 5dr hatchback, EW, radio cassette, MoT to November 2017, nice tidy car, 64k miles. Bargain £695. 01562 752815.

MOVE YOUR MOTOR SELL IT FAST SELL IT LOCAL

MUST BE SEEN
RENAULT CLIO 1.2 CAMPUS
Sport, 06 plate, BR9, 55k, four door, silver, 45,000 miles, FSH, 12 months tax, excellent inside and out. £1,995 ono. 01902 123456.

MUST BE SEEN
RENAULT CLIO 1.2 CAMPUS
Sport, 06 plate, BR9, 55k, four door, silver, 45,000 miles, FSH, 12 months tax, excellent inside and out. £1,995 ono. 01902 123456.

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MUST BE SEEN
RENAULT CLIO 1.2 CAMPUS
Sport, 06 plate, BR9, 55k, four door, silver, 45,000 miles, FSH, 12 months tax, excellent inside and out. £1,995 ono. 01902 123456.

*SOURCE: Jicreg 01.10.2012. Private advertisers only.

Tel: 01902 317878

Classified Ads

Classified Ads

VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 2002. 89,000 miles. Blue, abs, electric windows, air bag, MOT, auto, central locking, pas, 7 seats.



1993, 92,000 miles, blue, abs, electric windows, air bag, MOT, auto, central locking, pas, 7 seats.

£900 ono.

01902 883829.

classic cars

WANTED, CLASSIC Cars. Private cash buyer. Instant cash settlement. Any age. Any condition. 01630 63293 or 07773 462797.

commercial vehicles

PEUGEOT PARTNER VAN

P600, 2005, 1.9D, white, plly wood / lined, air con, front discs and pads, FSH.

90,000 miles.

£1,695. ono.

01384 390889.

driving tuition



scrap vehicles

OUR ADVERTISERS are reminded that it is an offence under the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013 to buy scrap cars/mobile for cash.



for scrap or damaged cars and commercials. Spares for sale.

NINE LOCKS VEHICLE

DISMANTLERS LTD Brierley Hill 01384 76566 or 70553. Evenings 75397. DY5 3JZ.

vehicles wanted

alan reed cars

Used cars wanted for cash. Top prices paid. HP settled. Buyer could call. 01562 711083 / 07831 245313

CROWN MOTORS guarantee best price for your unwanted cars/vans. 07903 549849, buyer will call.

spares & accessories

clutches / brakes / gearboxes

A CLUTCH CHANGE MOBILE

For Example:
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Ring for quotes on others!

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Call Bob
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07972 169554
anytime

9 Local Information

public & legal notices

WILLIAM CHARLES FREESTON (Deceased)
Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of 182A Hagley Road Oldswinford, Stourbridge West Midlands are requested to satisfy particular thereof by writing to the undersigned Solicitors on or before 10/02/2017, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.

SILKS SOLICITORS LIMITED
27 Birmingham Street Oldbury
West Midlands B69 4DY

T48229

LEGAL / PUBLIC NOTICES

For convenience you may fax any advertising requirements to

Marie Hogg on 01902 713146

or email marie.hogg@expressandstar.co.uk

(remember to include a name/contact number for confirmation of receipt)

10 Personals

personal

AT: MANYANA Gentlemen's Club, St. customer-rated Mon-Fri 10-9pm, Sat-Sun: 10-11pm. 0121 472 7261.

ATTRACTIVE MALE 37

If you are looking for a genuine, honest, caring male who is fun to be around, then look no further!

I enjoy cross country biking, bowling, cinema, meals out, walks, holidays etc new to Bushbury area and would like to meet a like minded mature male aged 29 to 44 years for friendship hopefully leading to a relationship.

Genuine replies only. Photo appreciated (returned). Box Number C20632, Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

FRIENDSHIP IN WOLVERHAMPTON

Would you like to make new friends, meeting up frequently, easy going friends sharing their varied interests eg walking, coffee, outings, arts and crafts, etc, etc. Box Number P20629, Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

LOCAL LADIES Available & looking for fun in your area. Call to hook up (no text): 070 8026 348.

SEMI RETIRED GENT

Medium build, no ties, enjoys music, countryside, meals in or out, days out and holidays. WLTM nice slim / medium lady 45 - 65, with a good sense of humour and young outlook. Box Number P20634, Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

general

HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the public of any changes in the accuracies on the first day of publication.



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- Extensions
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- Landscaping
- Block paving
- General property maintenance.

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- Tree Felling
- Turfing
- Garden Clearance
- NO JOB TOO SMALL
- Manufacturers of all Concrete Products eg. Concrete Posts, Gravel Boards
- All work guaranteed Insurance work undertaken Over 15 years experience (Public liability covered)

Call Steve on
01384 242891 or 07970 300586

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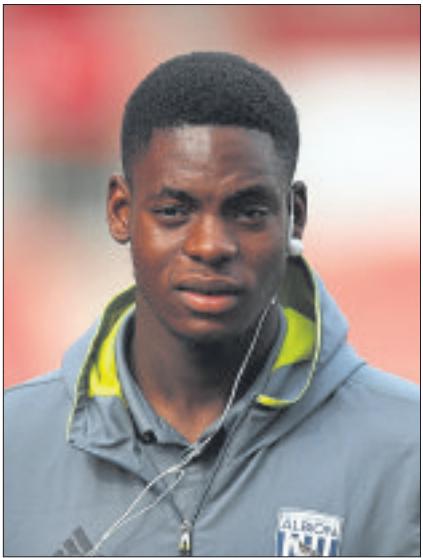
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Suzy Richards receives an award for Run for Joel, which was nominated again



Albion prospect Jonathan Leko was on the shortlist



Bethan Rees of Stafford Athletics Club was another up for the Aspiring Talent title



Unsung hero – Wyrley Juniors chairman Keith Hardy

Sporting heroes listed for community awards

A LONG-serving junior football club chairman and a teenage Premier League star were among the nominees for the West Midlands Community Sports Awards taking place this week.

Taking place at Villa Park last night (Wednesday), the awards were set up with the goal of recognising sports clubs, projects and individuals making a difference in their community.

The highlight was the BBC Midlands Sport Unsung Hero category with Keith Hardy, the chairman of Wyrley Juniors, one of three nominated for the prize.

Hardy was selected alongside Richard Brough, from Handsworth Grammar School Old Boys Water Polo and David Finney from Redditch's Bridge Swimming Club. The winner will be given the chance to win the national unsung hero prize at the BBC Sports Personality of the Year awards in Liverpool.

Formed in 1982, Wyrley Juniors are one of the biggest junior set-ups in the country, fielding more than 60 teams, both male and female, in a variety of age groups.

Recognition

Hardy has played a huge role in the club's success and is delighted to see the Juniors, who were the FA's Community Club of The Year in 2011, receive further recognition.

"I was shocked, first of all when I found out I had been nominated," he said. "And then pleasantly surprised. I am pleased because it is recognition for the club and what it has achieved over the past 30 odd years. No-one who is involved in grassroots football is in it for personal awards, it's all about the development of the kids and the club."

Albion striker Jonathan Leko was up for the Aspiring Talent Award. The 17-year-old, originally from the Democratic Republic of Congo, made his break-

SPORTING FEATURE

By Matt Maher

"The standard is always high in the West Midlands Community Sport Awards, but this year it has been particularly difficult to select a shortlist."

through into the Baggies first team early last season. Stafford Athletics Club's javelin star Bethan Rees and Darlaston boxer Benjamin Whittaker were also among the nominees.

Nominated in the Community Club Award was Stourbridge-based Mums on the Run, group which aims to get mothers active while raising money for charity. They were honoured at the Black Country Sport & Physical Activity Awards, which were presented by Olympic gymnast Kristian Thomas.

Also recognised is Run for Joel, a fundraising event held in memory of Tunisia terror attack victim Joel Richards. Attracting more than 1,000 participants when it took place at Sandwell Valley Country Park in September, it has been nominated for the Community Project Award and was also honoured at the Black Country Sport & Physical Activity Awards. Cannock-based Real Girls were shortlisted for the same category.

Sally-Anne Chambers, head coach at Tipton-based Midrange Netball Club, was one of six nominees for community coach of the year. Akil Maylor, from Wolverhampton's Rise Up Yoga, was nominated in the Power of Sport Award, which recognises an individual

whose life has been significantly improved or changed thanks to a more active lifestyle.

The awards are organised by six county sports partnerships across the region. Chris Child, chairman of WMCSA and chief executive of Energize Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin, said: "The standard is always high in the West Midlands Community Sport Awards, but this year it has been particularly difficult to select a shortlist."

"These awards are not just about recognising the best sporting talent – although there are some notable achievements across the finalists including Paralympic medals, national and world championships. Instead, they are designed to showcase the dedication and commitment shown by so many people in order to help make a difference through the power of sport."

"All of the finalists have already been named as winners in their own local County Sports Partnership awards and they can be incredibly proud to have made the final shortlist."

Nominees were: Community Club Award: Coundon Court FC, Ellesmere College Titans Swimming Club, Stourbridge Mums On The Run, Tamworth Boxing Club, Women's Boxing Club (Birmingham), Worcester National Swimming Club.

Community Project Award: Be Active (Telford), Big Birmingham Bikes, Enggel (Coventry), Run For Joel (Black Country), Real Girls (Cannock), The Core Skate (Hereford).

Community Coach of the Year: Alan Bircher (Ellesmere College Titans Swimming Club), Sally-Anne Chambers (Midrange Netball Club, Tipton), Job King (Coventry Wheelchair Racing Club), Jason Lowe (Women's Boxing Club, Birmingham), David Rigby (Kidsgrove Cricket Club), Mark Stowe (Worcester Swimming Club).

Aspiring Talent Award: Jonathan Leko (West Bromwich Albion), George Mitchell (Modern Pentathlete From Warwick), Rebecca Redfern (Worcester Swimming Club), Bethan Rees (Stafford Athletics Club), Adam Summers (Astons Kickboxing Academy, Shrewsbury), Benjamin Whittaker (Firewalker Boxing Club, Darlaston).

Power of Sport Award: Liv Boucher (Run Like A Girl, Warwick), Darren Ford (Inclusively Fit Project), Yousef Khara (O'Dell's Amateur Boxing Club, Birmingham), Akil Maylor (Rise Up Yoga, Wolverhampton), Ian Nash (Redditch Boxing Club).

BBC Midlands Sports Unsung Hero Award: Richard Brough (Handsworth Grammar School Old Boys Water Polo), David Finney (The Bridge Swimming Club, Redditch), Keith Hardy (Wyrley Juniors FC).



Darlaston boxer Benjamin Whittaker was up for the Aspiring Talent award



Mums on the Run with Kristian Thomas at the Black Country Sport & Physical Activity Awards

Sport

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Albion starlet joins unsung heroes on awards shortlist

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Glassboys put visitors to the sword

Stourbridge 5 Workington 0
SUPERB Stourbridge warmed up for the FA Cup clash with Northampton this weekend by putting five past Workington – with all goals coming in the first 27 minutes.

Dangerous Matt Dodd was at the heart of Stourbridge's early onslaught and soon made his presence felt when he cut inside Workington defender Gari Rowntree and was tripped as he raced through on goal.

Referee Sarah Garratt had no hesitation in pointing to the penalty spot and the league's leading marksman Luke Benbow slotted home.

Further chances went begging before Stourbridge made it 2-0 on 15 minutes. Dodd left three Workington players trailing in his wake before picking out Jordan Archer with a pinpoint cross to head home his first Glassboys goal.

It was 3-0 on 20 minutes when Jack Duggan headed Leon Broadhurst's free-kick against the underside of Workington's crossbar. The ball bounced down and was partially cleared straight back to Duggan who fired home at the second attempt.

The dynamic Dodd set up a fourth goal just three minutes later, cutting through a beleaguered defence and crossing for the unmarked Kayelden Brown to convert at the far post.

Stourbridge struck a fifth goal on 27 minutes when Broadhurst lobbed a sublime pass over Workington's defence for Benbow to bury home a spectacular goal with a first-time volley.

Stourbridge could have increased the lead further when Brown blazed wide on 52 minutes with only Workington goalkeeper Aaran Taylor to beat. Workington spurned the chance of a consolation goal when Rob Simpson shot weakly at Glassboys goalkeeper Matt Gould.

Boxing club at the double in regional competition finals

DUDLEY'S Priory Park Boxing Club will definitely have a double presence in the National Association of Boys and Girls Clubs Championships semi-finals.

The Priory Road gym got two out of three through the last of the West Midlands finals held at the Triumph Social Club in Coventry.

Former national champion James Mongan and club-mate Jee Johal faced four clashes at the Croxteth Leisure Centre in Liverpool on Saturday.

They both feature in Class A, for fighters born in 2001. Mongan is at 48kg, with Johal at 60kg.

However, another Priory Park fighter, Rahmatullah Sher, battled in vain against the useful Liam Hughes, from Exhall in Coventry, before going down on a split at 60kg in Class B (born 2000).

Ethan Collins, of Brooklands in Dudley, lost a box-off on a split at the regional semi-final stage on a split to Kaash Buttery, from Tom Lowe in Stoke-on-Trent.

Collins' Brooklands club-mate Paige Goodyear may have to go up to 66kg to take on Carlisle's Brodie Stephenson in a female Class B straight national final.

Hole load of preparation for showdown



Andrew Whitlock, left, and Richard Copsey

ENVILLE golf pro Richard Copsey has prepared on both sides of the Atlantic for his shot at winning the £25,000 Golflink Insurance PGA-Pro Captain Challenge grand final.

Copsey, who is teaming up with club captain Andrew Whitlock in the 36-hole final, put in 80 holes of practice over three days at Saunton, Devon before jetting off to Orlando for warm weather training around the courses of Lake Nona.

And, while it sounds like a well-planned build up for the season ending showdown in Spain, Copsey insists it was just a coincidence. He said: "We always head over to America for some golf at

Golf

this time of year. It is just fortunate that it has fallen when it did."

"I am not a fan of cold weather and we have a good time at Lake Nona which is the reason we go."

It will mean a smooth switch from the heat of Orlando to the heat of Lumine Mediterranea Beach & Golf Community in Spain for the competition that began yesterday (Wednesday).

Copsey and club captain Whitlock made home advantage pay in the qualifier, shooting a 10 under round at Envile to ease into the final.

STOUR PUNISHED BY OTLEY CREW

Otley 14 Stourbridge 7

STOUR'S National 2 North campaign took a further setback as they were punished for defensive lapses and lost to an Otley side struggling at the wrong end of the table.

Winger Paul Petchey scored in the corner early on and the conversion was added to give Otley the lead. Scores were levelled when a fluffed Otley clearance kick allowed Stour to counter. Scrum half Joe Heatley set up a try for centre James Outaha that was converted by Chris Scott.

The scoring was completed on the hour mark when Petchey scored his second try, converted by Tom Hodson. This Saturday Stour host Leicestershire-based Hinckley, kick off 3pm.

Camp Hill 45 Stourbridge Lions 55

LIONS kept their unbeaten league run going with a fantastic win at second-placed Camp Hill in a game that saw 100 points and 14 tries.

This was a great performance by the league leaders who go five points clear at the top.

The Lions scored early through Will King and were never headed. The conversion was followed by a Ben Tringham penalty and soon after by the first of George Tildesley's hat-trick.

A shell-shocked Camp Hill were 18-0 down after just 15 minutes with a further Tringham penalty. They clawed their way back in with a try and conversion, but Lions responded with Tildesley's second try.

Again the home 15 crossed for a try, but the Lions responded with a try for King for the bonus points, converted by Tringham and then by No 8 Scotty Langdon. Camp Hill's third try followed before half-time.

For a fair proportion of the second half it remained a keen contest. After 10 minutes Tildesley scored his third try, converted by Tringham. A try and conversion by the home side brought them closer, but another Tringham penalty followed.

A further Camp Hill try brought them within 14 points, but Alex Jones went over, unconverted, for Lions.

The home side scored two more converted tries, one right at the final whistle, but not enough for a losing bonus. A Tringham penalty took the Lions to another half-century of points.

Stepping into ring to aid friend



Reuben takes the gold medal at the World Cup meeting in Romania

A KICKBOXER will step into the ring for the final time this year to help out a friend as a season of success draws to a close.

Reuben Charlesworth, of Lower Gornal, has won regional and national titles this year, as well as four world championships.

Aged 19, he travels around the world competing for his club, CMA Villains in Halesowen. He has just returned from Romania where he won the World Cup.

He trains and teaches at the family martial arts centre and also gives back what he has learned over the years by tutoring at schools

in Dudley and Sandwell. Reuben has just one competition left this year, which is this weekend. He has cancelled a scheduled bout in Poland on Sunday to line up in Birmingham instead for a charity event for a friend who has been diagnosed with Motor Neurone Disease.

All of CMA Villains will be competing along with many others clubs, who will put on fights and exhibitions.

Spectators are welcome at North Solihull Sports Centre, Chelmsley Wood, from 11am. Admission is £10 on the door or £25 to participate. Call 0121 770 3822.

Six-miler a real test of endurance

THERE were opportunities right on the doorstep for athletes from Dudley Kingswinford Running Club at the weekend with huge numbers travelling the short distance to Baggeridge Country Park for the Suicide 6. A colourfully named race organised by Action Heart, the cardiac charity based at Russell's Hall Hospital, over a six-mile course around Baggeridge down into Himley Park and back again, taking in some of the most testing features of both venues.

Within a mile of the start the course took competitors over the trig point, a brutally thigh shredding climb, before a stretch along the clay road sapping any remaining strength from already ruined legs.

Added to this another steep climb across a ridge behind Himley Hall and a waist deep water crossing to negotiate before climbing 111 steps before crossing the line, some in a heap.

Stuart Perkins was first home for the blue hoops in 40.43 taking 10th place, Dave Norman finished in 23rd in 42.57 chased over the line by Simon Hughes in 25th in 43.07.

Gary Bonner was 29th in 43.34, Mick Quane 47th in 44.28, Mark Homer was 53rd in 45.01, Stephen Parr finished 86th in 47.24, Sergei Lyubovnikov was 96th in 48.22 and Darren Marklew came home in 102nd in 48.41.

Andy Weaver came home in 49.47, Richard Tonks in 50.10, Roy Campbell in 51.26, John Sixsmith in 51.34, John Andrews in 53.06, Andy Morrison in 53.20, Karen Doy in 57.10, Malcolm Beddall in 1.00.57, Jane Campbell in 1.01.47, Lisa Kendrick in 1.02.25, Jan Burbie in 1.06.49 and Tony Nokes in 1.06.51.

Amanda Hunt, Tracy Jones and Gina Collins all finished together in 1.10.28, Preston Grundy crossed the line in 1.12.34 and Chris Wood finished in 1.12.40.

It's Valentine's Day as visitors snatch it

Halesowen Town 1 Frickley Athletic 2
NATHAN Valentine broke Halesowen's hearts with Frickley's stunning injury time winner. But no-one could begrudge Frickley their vital three points as the struggling visitors created the better openings in a game low in quality.

Kudu Musuke caused particular danger and he went close on four occasions.

Noel Burdett nipped in to snatch the lead for Frickley in the final seconds of the first half.

Kaiman Anderson headed Yeltz level in the 52nd minute before Valentine arched home a 25-yarder in the third minute of injury time.

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